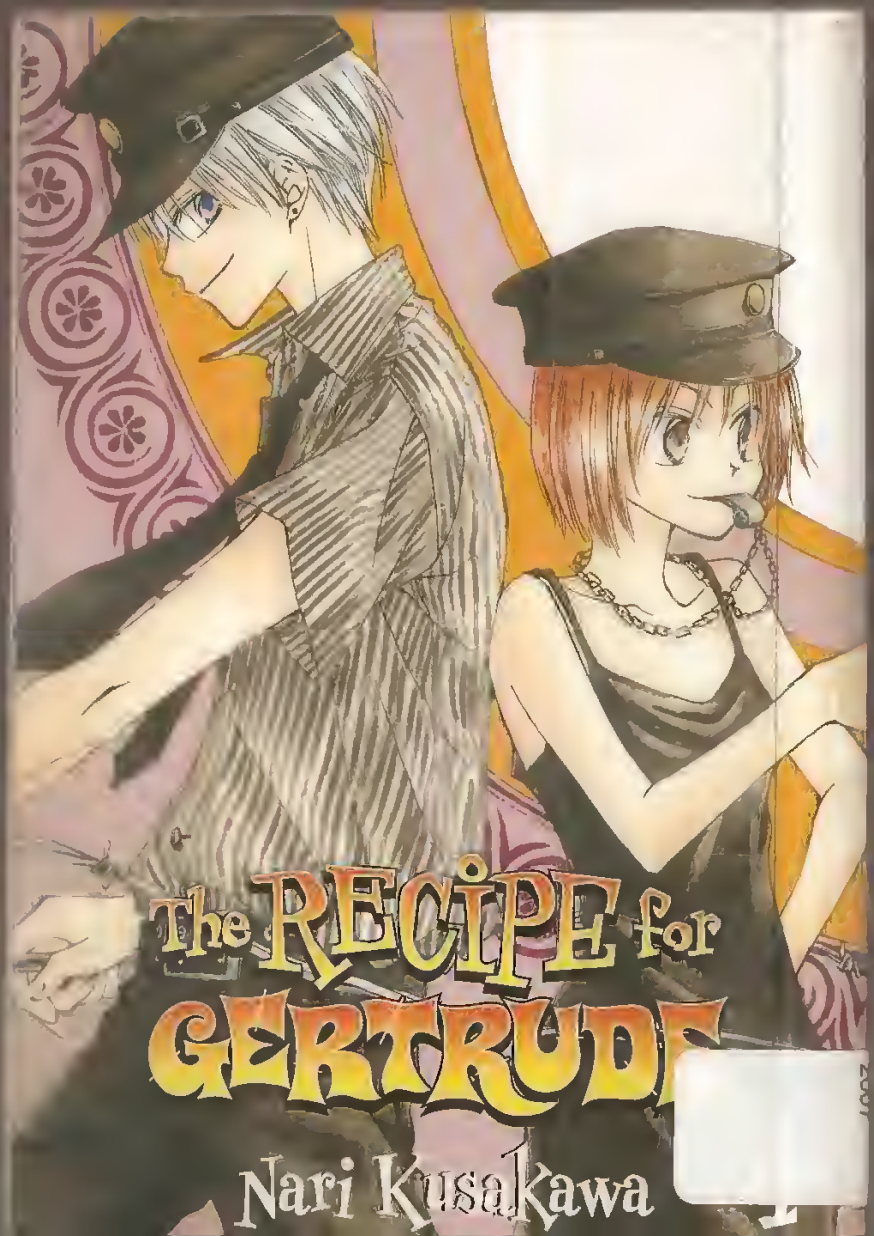
The RECIPE for
GERTRUDE
Nari Kusakawa

At last The secret of the "recipe" is finally revealed! Gertrude must rescue his friend Sahara from his evil creator, Claude. The "recipe" in its animate form leads him to her location, where he finds her trapped in a magically induced slumber. But if Gertrude tries to awaken her, Claude's counter-spell might destroy both Gertrude and Sahara!

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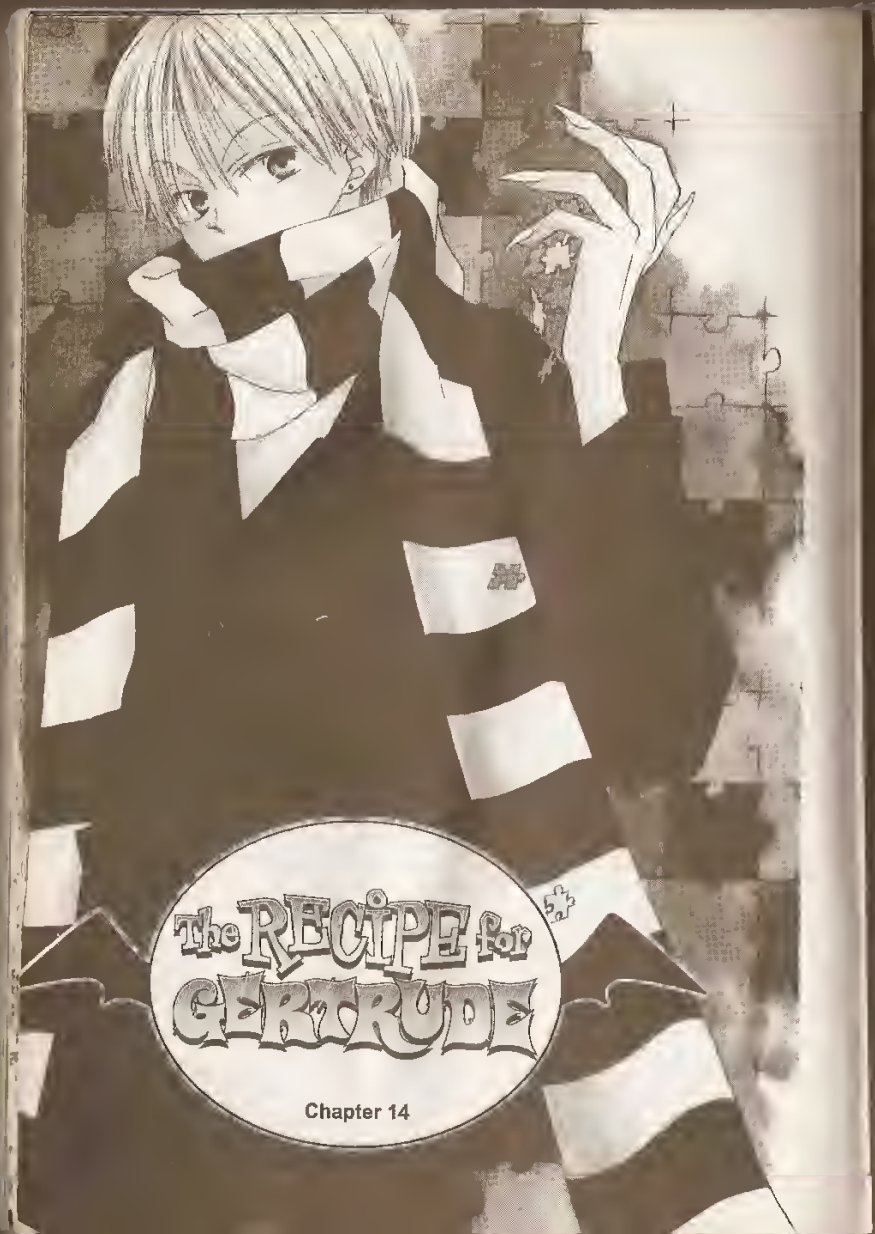
The RECIPE for GERTRUDE

By Nari Kusakawa

Volume 4



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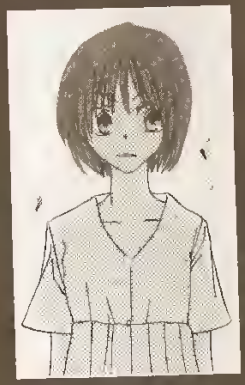
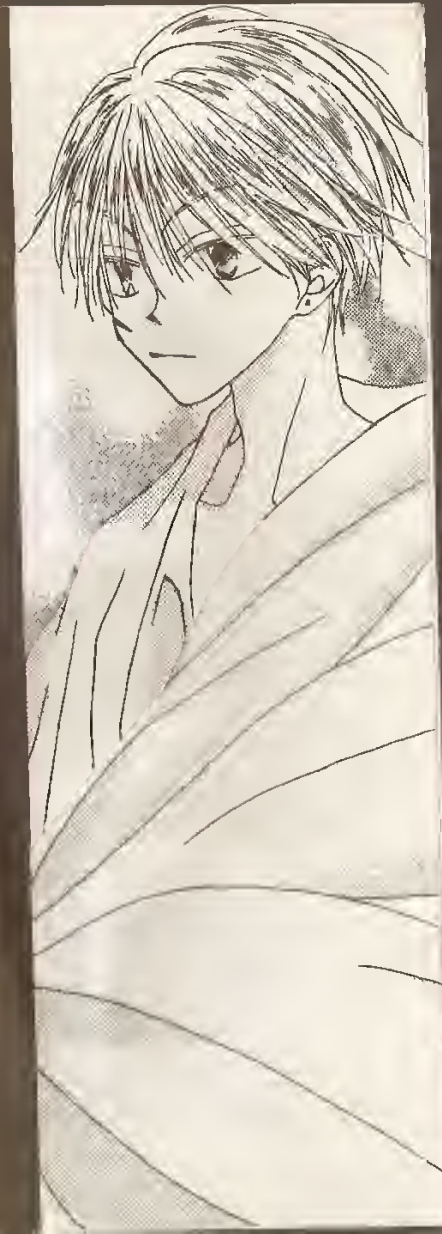




Preview art for Chapter 14

I gave it a New Year's feel because this story was to appear in the January issue*. All three are more than old enough to drink, so I thought they'd be getting hammered on the spiced sake that's so readily served to everyone at this time of year. Drinking otosoo sake is supposed to ward off evil spirits for that year. But they are spirits themselves. Definitely risky.

*REFERRING TO ORIGINAL JAPANESE PUBLICATION DATE. - ED

EVEN NOW, THEY ARE RUSHING TO HER AID.
HE HOPES TO DO THIS THROUGH A RITE INVOLVING THE RECIPE— AND SAHARA'S LIFE.
GERTRUDE AND FRIENDS HAVE SENSED THE DANGER.
AH. HERE AT LAST.
WHAM
IS THAT WHERE SAHARA IS?!
THIS BUILDING IS WAY APART FROM THE REST.
ACCORDING TO CLAUDE THREE SOULS RESIDE IN GERTRUDE'S BODY.
Gertrude
Halon
ONE IS THE DEMON'S THE OTHERS ARE CLAUDE'S WIFE HALON, AND HER SISTER GERTRUDE
IN HIS DESPERATION, CLAUDE WILL DO ANYTHING TO FREE HIS WIFE'S SOUL

AREN'T YOU GOING TO ASK ME IF SHE'S DEAD?

I DID HAVE A BARRIER SPELL...
...KEEPING THAT DOOR CLOSED.
IT DIDN'T STOP YOU, THOUGH, DID IT, GERTRUDE?
ガチャ
GA-CHUNK

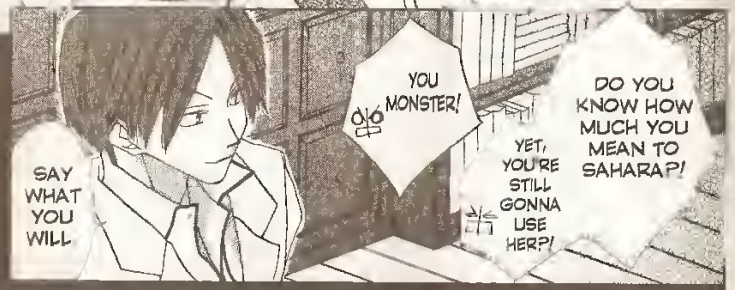
SLAP
NOT IF I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT IT!
THUD
HEY...
ZZZZZZZZZ
SAHARA?
.....
WAKE UP!

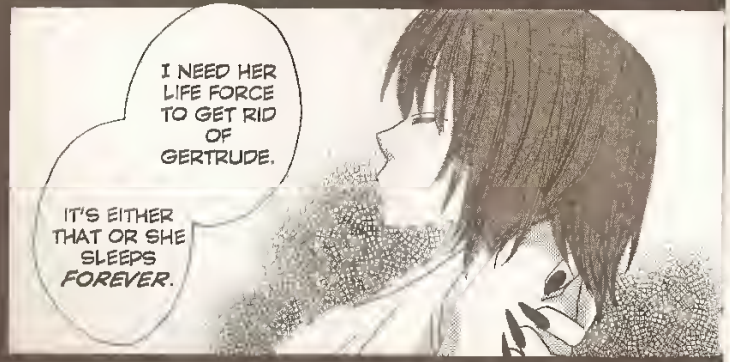
AND, YES, I DID PUT A SPELL ON HER.
WEREN'T YOU GOING TO PUT A SPELL ON HER?
CURTIS FILLED ME IN.
DON'T NEED TO.
I GUESS SHE WASN'T ABLE TO STOP YOU.
CUR-TIS?
YOU LOOK FINE.
GUESS NOT.
IT'S ALMOST COMPLETE.
TSK
STILL, SHE DID ENOUGH--SHE BOUGHT ME TIME.

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO SEE WHAT HAP-PENED
IT'LL SEEM LIKE YOU'RE LOOKING AT A MIRAGE THOUGH.
UH-HUH. IT'S CALLED A "REWIND" SPELL.
THE RECIPE CHRONICLES YOUR LIFE. WELL, I NEED IT SO I CAN GO BACK TO *BEFORE* YOU WERE BORN.
AND, I NEED HER LIFE ENERGY TO DO THAT.

SAHARA?!
?!
IT'S POINT-LESS.
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO WAKE HER UP.
SHE DRIVES THE SPELL?
WHICH IS?
LET'S JUST SAY SHE'S BEING KEPT WARM...
YOU SEE, SHE'S IMPORTANT AS THE SPELL'S DRIVING FORCE.
THE NEXT TIME SHE WAKES UP, THE FIRE IN HER SOUL WILL START BURNING *VERY QUICKLY*.

REALLY! AND, WHY NOW?! YOU MADE HIM IN THE FIRST PLACE!
WE'RE REALLY MAD NOW!
HOW CAN YOU BE SO SELF-CENTERED?!
CEASE TO EXIST?


SAY WHAT YOU WILL.
YOU MONSTER!
YET, YOU'RE STILL GONNA USE HER?!
DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH YOU MEAN TO SAHARA?!

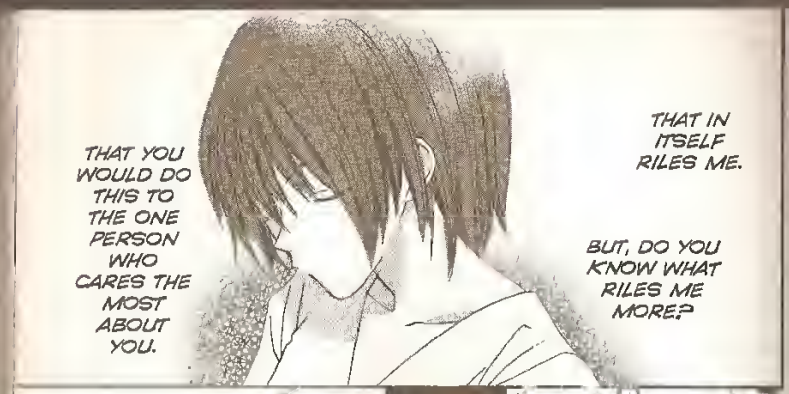

I NEED HER LIFE FORCE TO GET RID OF GERTRUDE.
IT'S EITHER THAT OR SHE SLEEPS *FOREVER*.

THE SNIPPETS WILL HAPPEN *BACK-WARDS*.
YOU SEE, IT BEGINS AT THE *END*.
IN ESSENCE, I'M GOING TO "REWIND" YOU.
HALON'S SOUL WILL BE FREED BECAUSE YOU WILL SIMPLY *CEASE TO EXIST*.
THAT'S HOW THE SPELL WORKS.

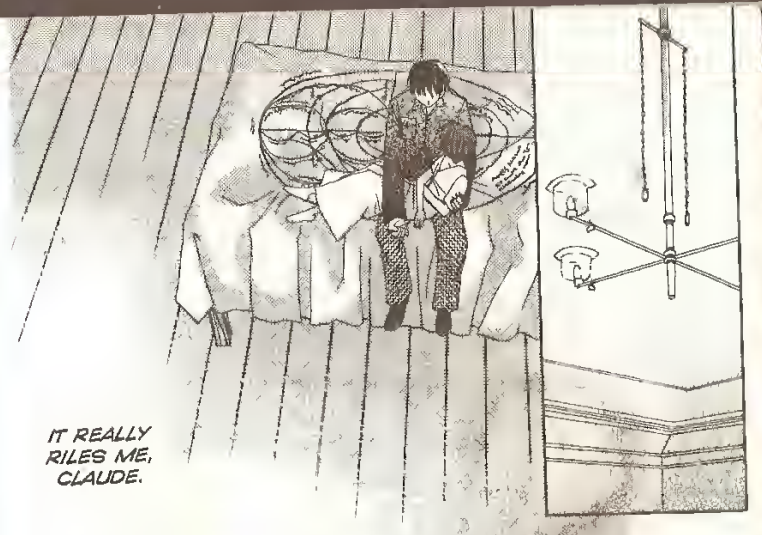
EITHER WAY, GERTRUDE IS GOING TO...
USE THIS IF YOU WANT TO WAKE HER.
PUSH THE KEY INTO HER HEART.
THAT'S NOT MUCH OF A CHOICE!
ARGH!
WAKE HER UP.
THEN BREAK THE SPELL BEFORE HER LIFE BURNS OUT.
THERE'S STILL A CHANCE.
THERE IS?
REALLY?
BUT, HEY...
REALLY?
THAT MIGHT SAVE HER.

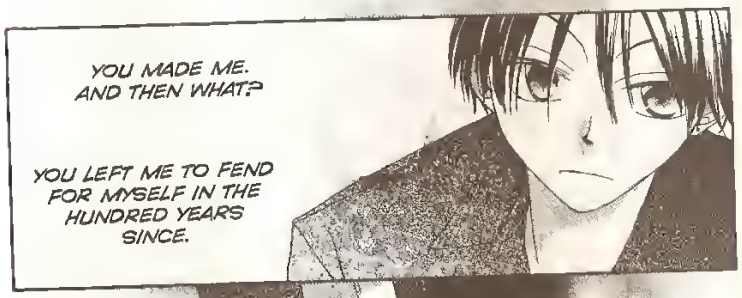
01

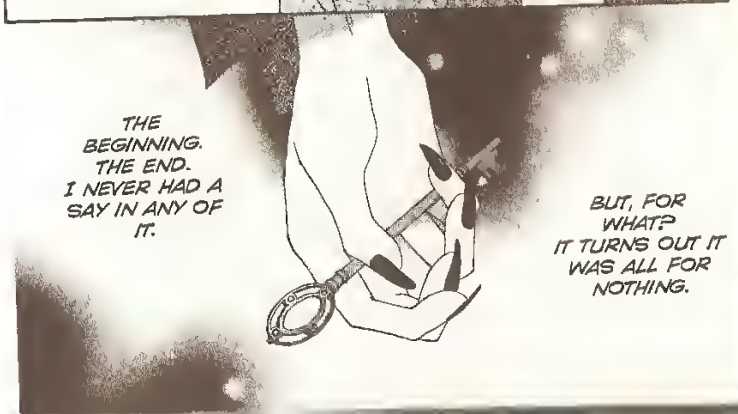
This is volume four. It's almost the end of THE RECIPE FOR GERTRUDE. I'm going to use these spaces to talk about the characters. By the way, in volume two, I wrote that I used to watch a kid's show with Bunbun the fox. I got that wrong. Bunbun was the raccoon. The fox was called Tsunekichi. Thank you very much to those who pointed that out to me. I'm so relieved there are people who actually remember the show besides me. And to all of you who have been so kind to write, thank you very much. I read each and every letter, although I must admit I'm always nervous when I do. And I'm really sorry if I haven't written back.


THAT YOU WOULD DO THIS TO THE ONE PERSON WHO CARES THE MOST ABOUT YOU.
THAT IN ITSELF RILES ME.
BUT, DO YOU K'NOW WHAT RILES ME MORE?

I THOUGHT THEY WERE ALIVE AT FIRST, THOUGH.
IT'S 'CAUSE CLAUDE KEPT ON TALKING TO THEM.
WELL, THEY'RE DEAD NOW.
THEY'RE EXACTLY LIKE THEY USED TO BE 100 YEARS AGO.
AND, YOU KNOW WHAT, SAHARA?
I REMEMBER HER.
THE DARK-HAIRED ONE, TOO.


IT REALLY RILES ME, CLAUDE.


YOU MADE ME. AND THEN WHAT?
YOU LEFT ME TO FEND FOR MYSELF IN THE HUNDRED YEARS SINCE.


THE BEGINNING. THE END. I NEVER HAD A SAY IN ANY OF IT.
BUT, FOR WHAT? IT TURNS OUT IT WAS ALL FOR NOTHING.

AND THAT IS WHAT RILES ME THE MOST.
AND CLAUDE. I CAN'T EVEN FIND IT IN MYSELF TO CRITICIZE HIM.
LIKE ME, HE NEVER GOT AN ANSWER.
THE MORE I HOPE, THE MORE I WANT TO HEAR IT.
I WANT TO HEAR YOUR VOICE.
EVEN IF IT'S JUST ONCE.

THUP

JUST GREAT.
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D GET THE RECIPE BACK LIKE THIS
CLICK

YOU'RE GOING TO CEASE TO EXIST, YOU KNOW THAT?!
OH. YOU HEARD EVERY-THING.
SLUMP
I WON'T STAND FOR IT!
IT'S BEGIN-NING.
LOOK AT IT THIS WAY.

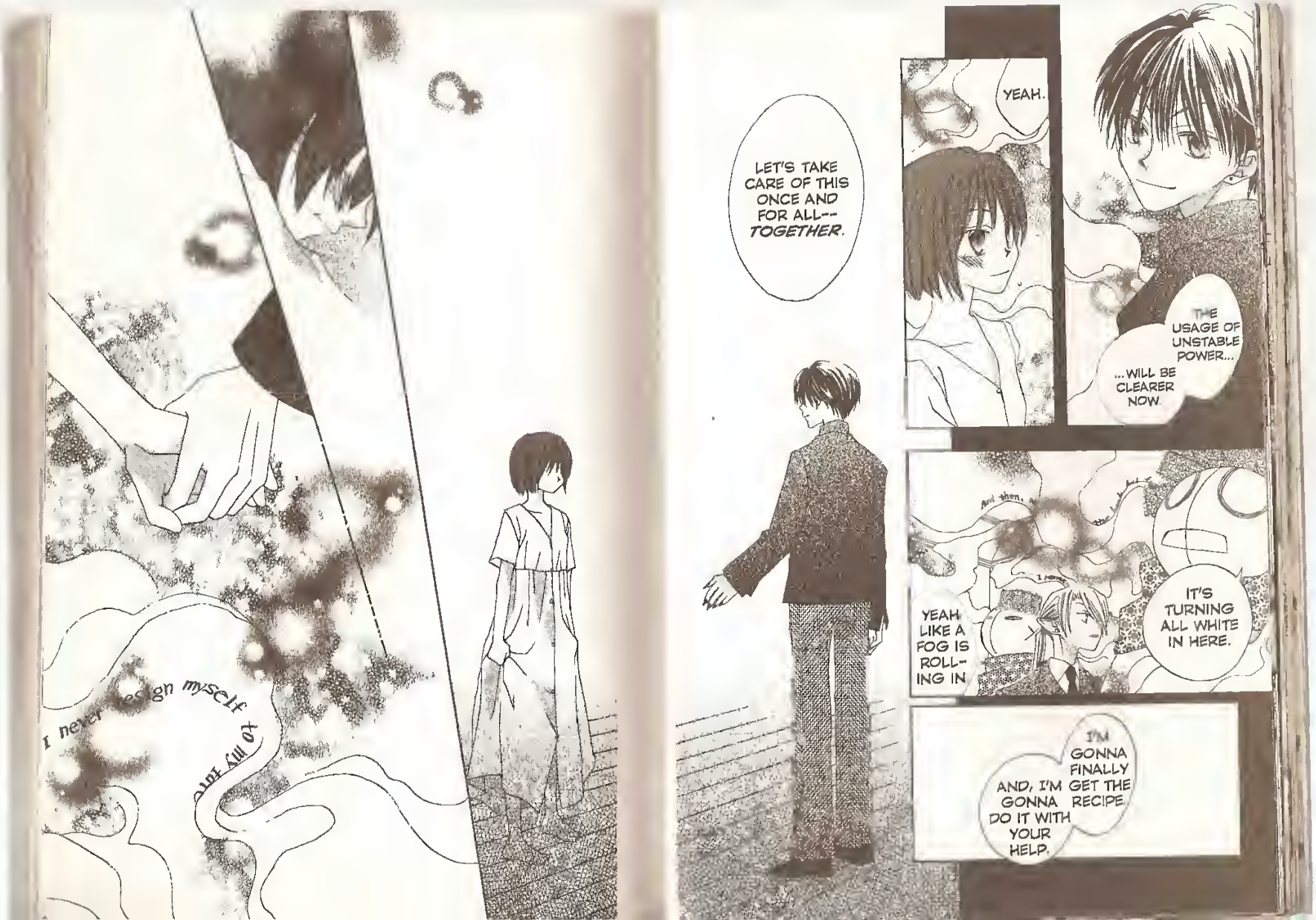
WAAAAAA
AGH
HOW DARE YOU WAKE ME UP?!
JOLT
UM... SAHARA?

I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS.
OH, GER-TRUDE...
I'M SO SORRY.
IT'S ALL BECAUSE *HE'S MY BROTH-ER.*
I'M SO SORRY.

PLUS, THE RECIPE WILL STILL BE ON YOUR BONES.
SO, YOU'RE ALWAYS GONNA BE IN DANGER.
THERE HAD TO BE ANOTHER WAY.
SO, CLAUDE'S STILL GONNA COME AFTER ME.
SUPPOSE I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING.
THOSE SOULS ARE STILL GONNA BE INSIDE ME.
Medically speaking, that is.
THERE IS NO OTHER WAY OF LIFTING THE RECIPE FROM YOUR BONES.
THAT'S WHAT THE STORE-KEEPER SAID.
ON TOP OF THAT, THERE'S NO OTHER WAY OF RIDDING MYSELF OF THE OTHER SOULS.
THERE'S NOT A LOT I CAN DO.

BUT, HOW?
MORE OR LESS.
?
YOU AREN'T GONNA TELL US?
PAT PAT
HMM...
OH... WELL, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
ER...YEAH AND...UM...I INADVERTENTLY TRASHED THE BOOKSTORE
YOUR HAIR'S CHANGED COLOR TOO
COME TO THINK OF IT, IT WAS A FULL MOON
YOU'RE NOT HURT ANYMORE
Architus,
the fruition of my
The plan is

IT'S ALL CLAUDE'S FAULT!
RIGHT?
WELL, YEAH!
SOB
THAT'S RIGHT! DON'T CRY!
IT ISN'T YOUR FAULT.
SO, DON'T CRY LIKE THAT.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THE ONE SHOT I HAVE AT SAVING HER COMES JUST BEFORE THE SPELL'S COMPLETE.
RIGHT?


I never resign myself to my fate.
LET'S TAKE CARE OF THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL-- TOGETHER.
YEAH.
THE USAGE OF UNSTABLE POWER...
...WILL BE CLEARER NOW.
YEAH. LIKE A FOG IS ROLL-ING IN
IT'S TURNING ALL WHITE IN HERE.
AND, I'M GONNA DO IT WITH YOUR HELP.
I'M GONNA FINALLY GET THE RECIPE.

experimentation on devils th
project
bring it to perfect

to the conference
demanded that my
wife should be returned

LOOK!
SOME-THING'S TAKING SHAPE IN THE FOG.
IT'S A HUGE MANOR.
AND, WOW. THIS MIRAGE-- IT'S ALL FROM BURNING SAHARA'S LIFE FORCE.
THE RECIPE ENTRIES ARE COMING TO LIFE.
WHOSE IS IT?
The RECIPE for GERTRUDE
Chapter 15

Preview art for Chapter 15

Requirement: Make it look romantic.

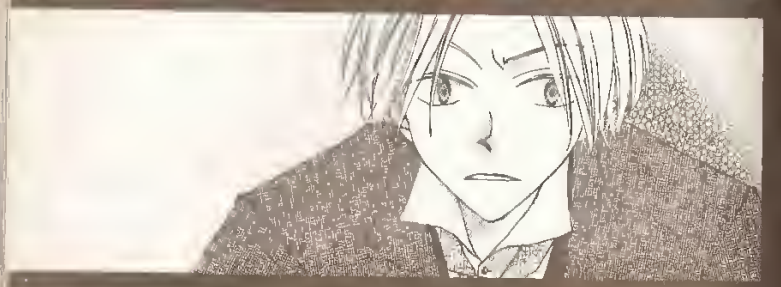
Here's another attempt at a romantic look. This time I was able to draw it fairly easily. Maybe it was because my own love life continues to be lackluster.

I really like this one.

Preview art for Chapter 16

HE WAS REALLY WELL OFF, COMING FROM A FAMILY OF DOCTORS.
WHAT!?
CLAUDE'S.
IT WAS TURNED INTO A HOTEL AFTER HE DIED.
IT'S STILL THERE IN ENGLAND.
TURNED INTO A HOTEL?
I EVEN STAYED THERE.
I WAS LOOKING FOR MY LEFT EYE THEN
SIZE OF BROTHER'S CURRENT ROOM
ABOUT 10 SQUARE YARDS
AND THAT THE YOUNG MASTER WENT MAD ONE DAY.
THERE'S MORE.
THAT'S PROBABLY CLAUDE.
IT'S POPULAR FOR THE STRANGE STORIES
IT'S SAID THAT SECRET EXPERIMENTS WERE CARRIED OUT THERE.
I WON A PRIZE AND HAD STAMPS MADE.

CLAUDE SAID THEY WERE HALF DEMON.
SO, WE CAN ASSUME THEIR FATHER, THE GARDENER, WAS HUMAN.
HE SUPPOSEDLY RAISED THEM ALONE. THE MOTHER HAD DIED OR SOMETHING.
PROBABLY "GERTRUDE" AND HALON.
UH-HUH
APPARENTLY THE LIVE-IN GARDENER'S DAUGHTER DISAPPEARED, TOO.
MORE SPECIFICALLY, HIS TWIN DAUGHTERS.
THAT MEANS ...
YOUR FAMILY VACATIONS THERE.
AND, FOR WHATEVER REASON, HE TAKES YOUR BROTHER'S BODY.
CLAUDE DIES, BUT HIS SOUL REMAINS.
I'M GUESSING NOW ABOUT THE REST.
IT PROBABLY HAPPENED IN THE LABORATORY.
THAT MAKES SENSE
OH.



AND, THAT WAS WHERE I SAW CLAUDE FOR THE FIRST TIME.

YOU'RE... *NEITHER.*

THAT'S THE FIRST THING HE SAID TO ME.

THE HOTEL OPERATORS DON'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT THE LAB.

I'D IMAGINE SO.

IT'S PRETTY WELL HIDDEN.

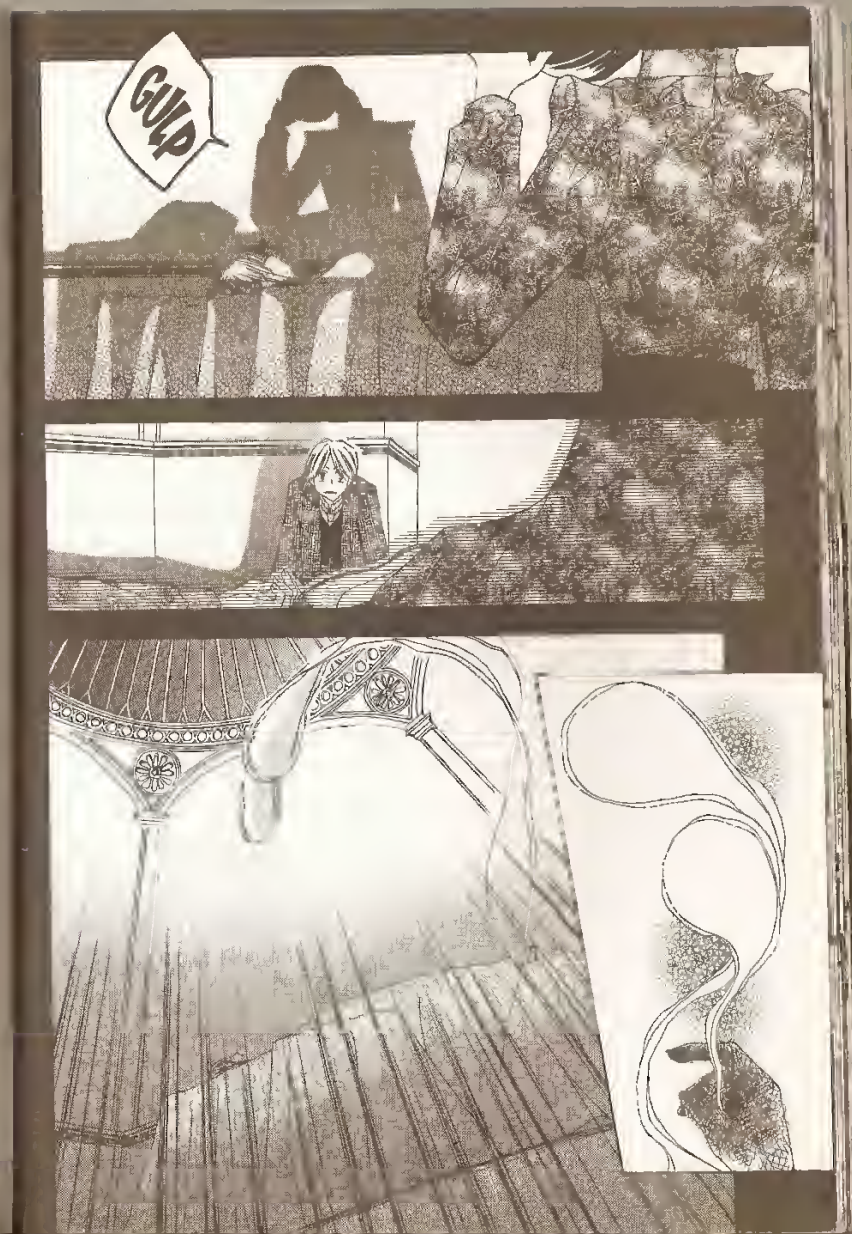
IT'S DEEP IN THE MANOR'S FOREST.

FURTHERMORE, IT'S UNDERGROUND.

27 September 1883

THAT WAS WHERE I WAS BORN.

.....
THIS ALL HAPPENED JUST BEFORE I CAME TO LIFE?
SSSSSSSS
!!
THUNK
SO, "GERTRUDE" KILLED HALON.
PRETTY IN-TENSE.
KKKKK


GULP

02

Gertrude

In volume one, I mentioned that Sahara was stealing the spotlight. And now, even Claude is getting more attention. I started imagining Gertrude as a plant. I mean, plants are at the mercy of things beyond their control, yet they stubbornly hang in there.

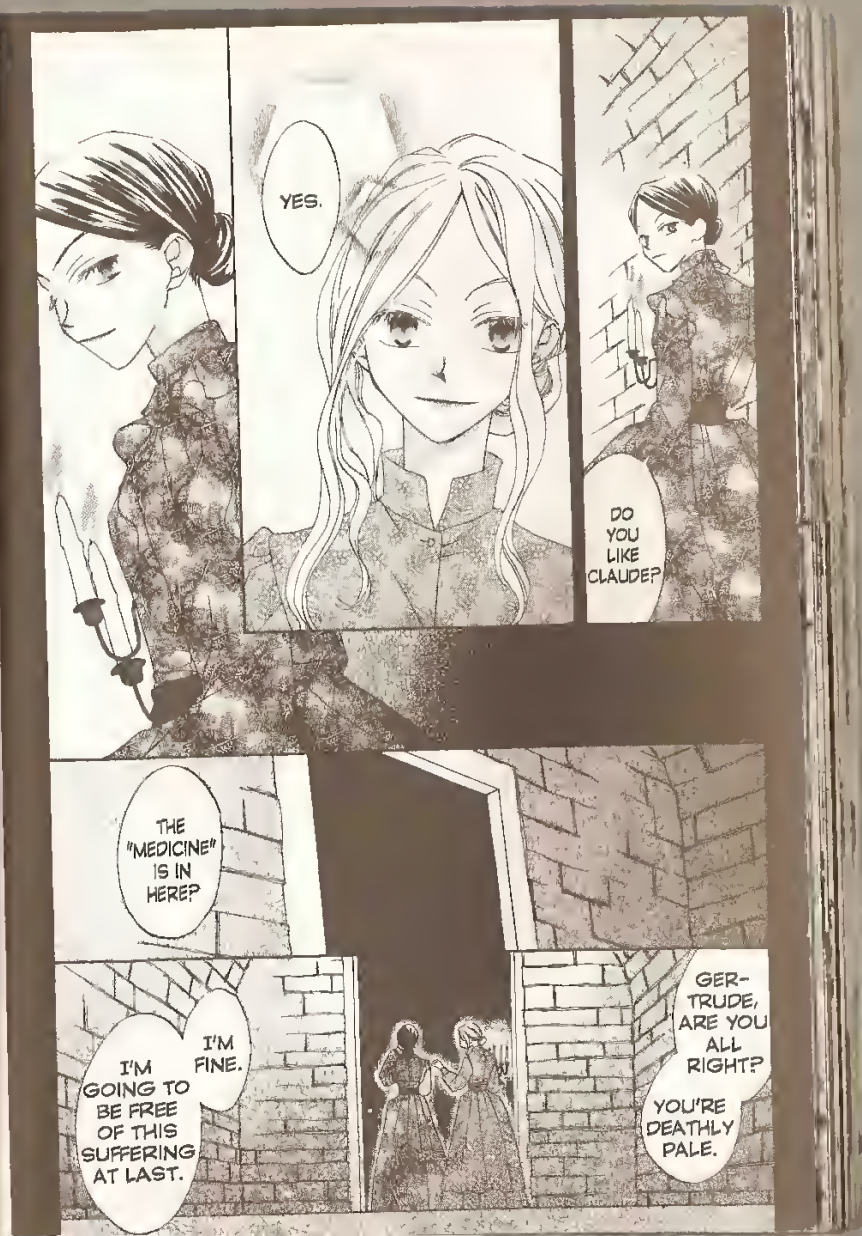
Sahara

She tends to come into her own whenever the chips are down, encouraging others along with herself. It's usually Sahara who puts things back in line, too. I see her as a bit of a sparkplug.

OH, HE'LL BE THERE SOON.
IT'S ALMOST TIME TO START HIS USUAL EXPERI-MENTS.
WHY ARE YOU BEING SUCH A PRUDE? *YOU'RE HIS WIFE.*
STILL, THOUGH.
WE SHOULD TELL CLAUDE FIRST.
WE SHOULDN'T GO IN THERE WITHOUT ASKING
NOT FOR ANOTHER MONTH.
WELL, IF YOU SAY SO...
THAT'S TRUE.
RELAX.
HE'S ALREADY GIVEN YOU THE KEYS TO HIS SECRET LAB.
JANG

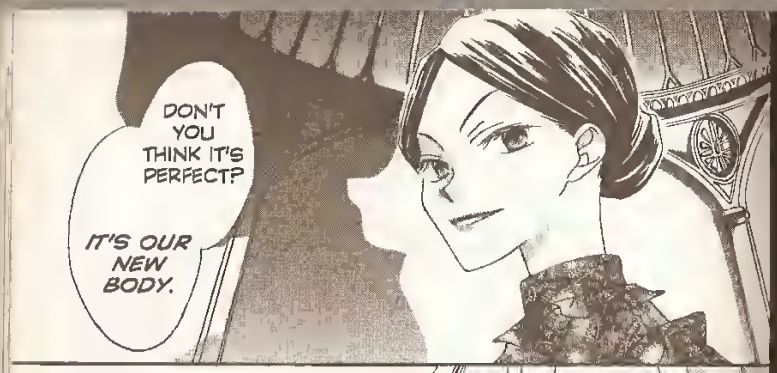
THE SHOCK OF THOSE SOULS ENTERING YOUR BODY BROUGHT YOU TO LIFE.
WHY'D SHE HAVE TO DO THAT, THOUGH?
TOTALLY
YOU HAD A VERY DIFFICULT BIRTH TO SAY THE LEAST.
HEY
THE MIRAGE IS CHANG-ING.
LOOK!
IT'S WHAT HAPPENED JUST BEFORE.
CLIP
CLOP
LIKE I SAID.
CLAUDE SAID I COULD HAVE THE POTION. IT'S HERE IN THE LAB.
I COUGHED UP BLOOD AGAIN, SO I NEED YOU JUST IN CASE, HALON.
CLIP
CLOP

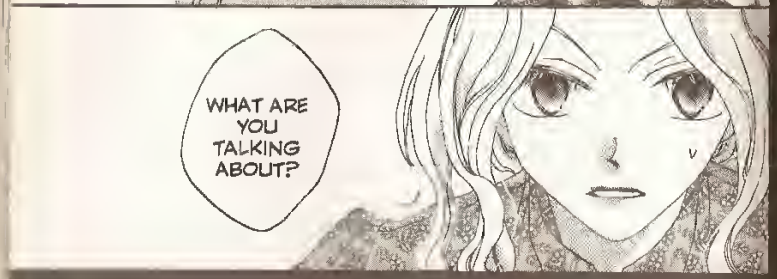
I DON'T HAVE THE KEY TO THIS ROOM.
I'LL ASK CLAUDE FOR IT.
THERE'S NO NEED.
WE ARE HALF DEMON.
YOU FOR-GET.
WHAM


YES.
DO YOU LIKE CLAUDE?
THE "MEDICINE" IS IN HERE?
I'M FINE.
I'M GOING TO BE FREE OF THIS SUFFERING AT LAST.
GER-TRUDE, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YOU'RE DEATHLY PALE.

I HAVE MAGICAL POWERS.
BUT, NOT THE BODY FOR IT.
YANK
WAIT
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?!
I SUFFER SERIOUS BURNS EVERY TIME I USE MAGIC.
CLOP
I RETCH BLOOD EACH AND EVERY DAY.
THE POWER'S UPKEEP TAKES ITS TOLL.
CLIP
CLOP
THOUGHT-LESS AND CALLOUS OUR MOTHER WAS.
THE LEAST SHE COULD'VE DONE IS MADE ME LIKE FATHER
THAT WRETCHED WOMAN LEFT US.
NOR BY CLAUDE'S.
I DIDN'T HAVE A PLACE BY FATHER'S SIDE.

SIZZLE
UNFOR-TUNATELY, I TOOK AFTER MOTHER.
GER-TRUDE?
I ENVY YOU. LOOK AT THESE BURNS.
YOU HAVE HARDLY ANY MAGICAL POWERS.
BUT, IN RETURN, YOU'RE HALE IN BODY.
I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE SOMETHING ELSE.





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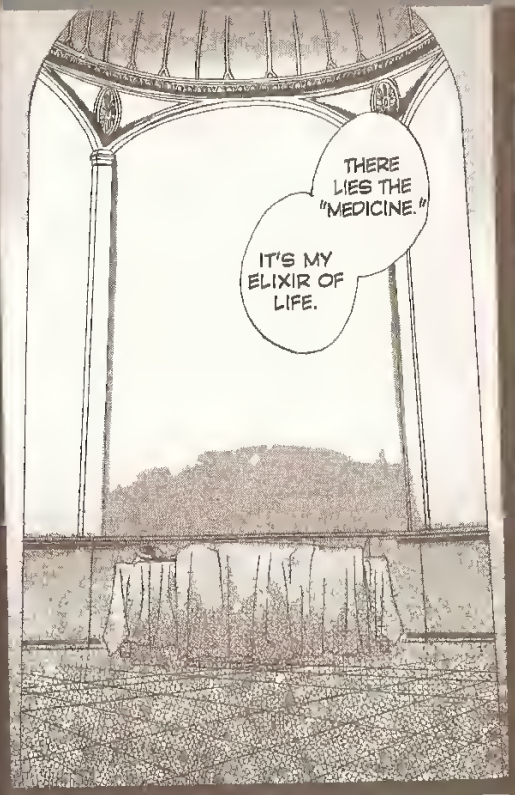

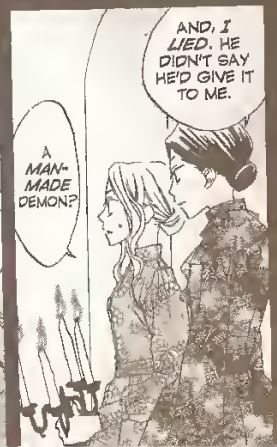

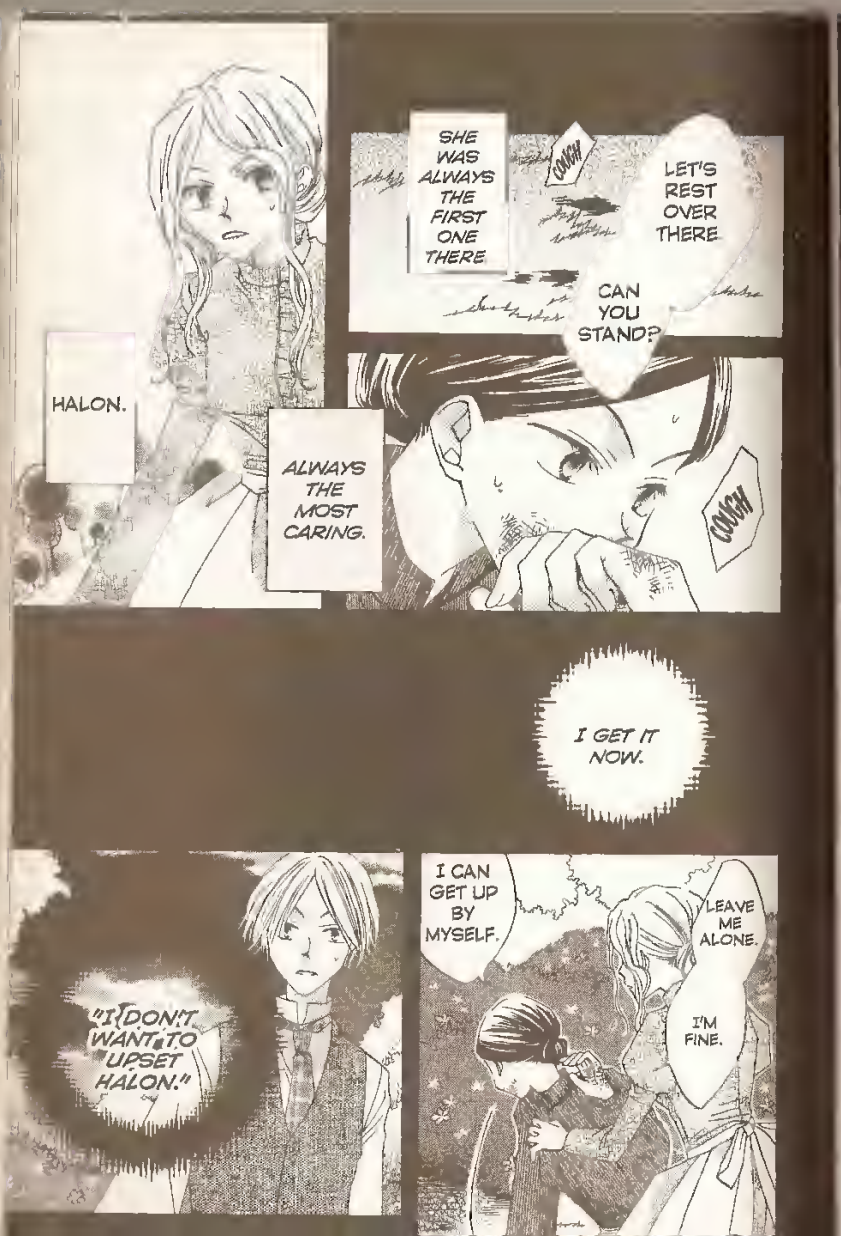
HALON.
ALWAYS THE MOST CARING.
SHE WAS ALWAYS THE FIRST ONE THERE
COUGH
LET'S REST OVER THERE
CAN YOU STAND?
COUGH
I GET IT NOW.
"I DON'T WANT TO UPSET HALON."
I CAN GET UP BY MYSELF.
LEAVE ME ALONE.
I'M FINE.

COUGH
YET AGAIN?
CRIKEY! YOUR DAUGHTER'S MARRYING THE GUV!
DON'T YOU GO CRYIN' NOW, POPS.
CONGRATS
GER-TRUDE?!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
IT WAS AL-WAYS LIKE THAT.

CAN I ASK FOR A FAVOR?
THE PROBLEM IS I DON'T KNOW HOW TO BRING THAT ABOUT.
POWERFUL ENERGY IS NEEDED TO BREATHE LIFE INTO THAT.
IT WON'T BE MOVING FOR A WHILE.
MUCH.
I WANT MY SOUL TRANSFERRED TO IT.
CAN YOU MAKE ME ONE?
I WANT A NEW BODY.
WILL YOU DO THAT?

6
5
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1.Septem

PERHAPS I HARBORED SUCH THOUGHTS.

I WAS GRASP-ING I THINK.

31
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16.August.1883

IT'S NOT A BAD PROPO-SITION.
BESIDES, YOU'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOUR GOALS.
THINK OF IT AS RE-SEARCH.
I WANT TO DO SOME-THING ABOUT IT.
IT HAS BECOME ALL TOO DIFFICULT FOR ME.
UNBEAR-ABLE REALLY.
STILL...
I CAN-NOT.
WHY?!
WAIT.

I'M NOT SURE OF MY EXPERI-MENTS.
I MIGHT END UP KILLING YOU.
I WOULD NOT HOLD THAT AGAINST YOU.
STRONG BECAUSE SHE'S HALF DEMON.
I TRY TO HELP MY FATHER LIKE HALON.
ALAS, I AM ALWAYS COLLAPSING. YOU HAVE NOTICED.
YES.
GER-TRUDE...
I ENVY MY SISTER.
WE'RE TWINS, YET VERY DIFFER-ENT.

HOW HAPPY I WOULD'VE BEEN HAD HE MEANT THOSE WORDS FOR ME.
JEALOUSY FLARED LIKE WILDFIRE.
I WANTED MORE FROM MUCH, MUCH EARLIER.
IT WAS NOT JUST CLAUDE THAT I WANTED, THOUGH.

WAIT UNTIL I SUCCEED WITH THIS ONE.
THEN MAYBE WE CAN START TO HOPE.
LET'S BE SURE IT WORKS FIRST.
YOUR LIFE IS PRE-CIOUS.
THOSE WORDS.

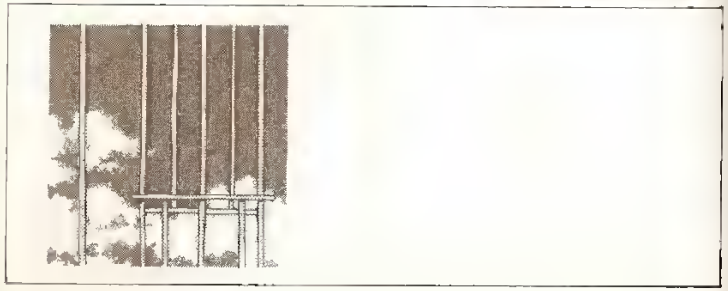
FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, I WANTED TO BE SOMETHING ELSE.
I AM LIKE YOU IN A WAY.

?!
SWIP
YOU IDIOT.
I...FEEL AWFUL.
SAHARA?!
SORRY...I (PANT)...
LOOK.
THE SPELL'S STARTING TO WORK ON ME, TOO.
HOW ABOUT YOU?

WE ARE BOTH MISSING SOMETHING. YOU, A SOUL.
I, A BODY WORTHY OF MY SOUL.
WRONG. YOU JUST WANTED AN EASY WAY OUT.
LIFE'S ABOUT MAKING THE BEST OF WHAT YOU GOT.

MY 100 YEARS CRUMBLE FROM MY FINGERTIPS.
AS IF ANYTHING'S GOING TO BE LEFT.

JUST LIKE THAT.
GER-TRUDE?
MY BODY IS BEING TAKEN AWAY.
I'M TURNING TO DUST.
SQUEEZE



The RECIPE for GERTRUDE
Chapter 16

SOON, HALON.
YOU'LL BE BETTER. I PROMISE.
IT MUST'VE BEEN VERY PAINFUL FOR YOU.
BUT, I CAN FINALLY SAVE YOU NOW.

CRUMBLE
GOODBYE.
IT'S ALMOST TIME.
OOPS.

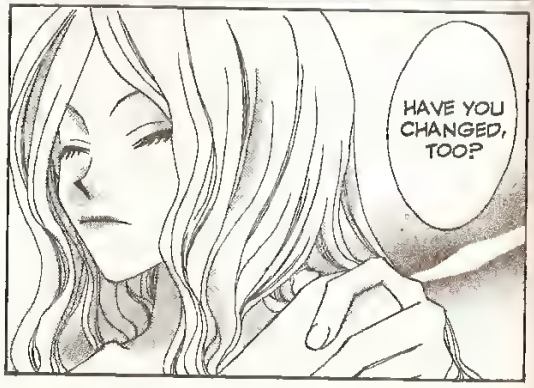
03

Puppon

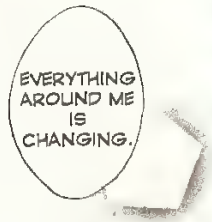
He keeps getting dumber and dumber. I had to laugh when I realized I was unconsciously simplifying his lines. His face has become very round, too. The trick to drawing his hair is to start in the middle and keep adding what look like ribbon strips.

Mariotte

It's hard to deny his face is rounder. But, more than anything, he has fewer but thicker strands of hair. I generally give him four or five strands now. At first, the hair strands were supposed to look like yarn, but now I have no idea what I'm trying to make them look like.



THE YEARS MADE IT EASIER TO ACCEPT IN SOME WAYS-- AND AT OTHER TIMES THEY MADE IT HARDER.
100 YEARS.
HAS IT BEEN THAT LONG ALREADY?
MY CREATION MIGHT'VE BEEN NAMELESS, BUT AT LEAST HE GOT TO LIVE FOR 100 YEARS.
THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH.
I LOST A LOT.
BUT, I GAINED A LOT, TOO.

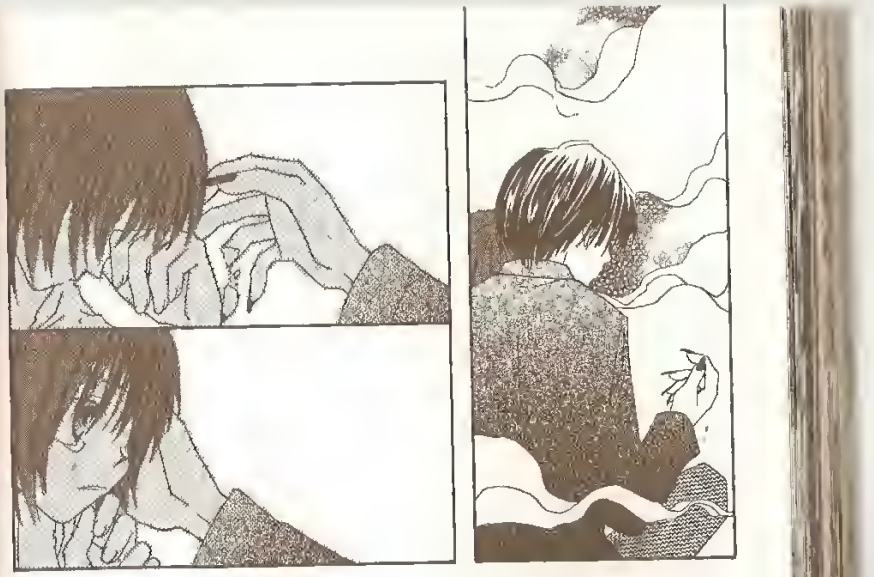


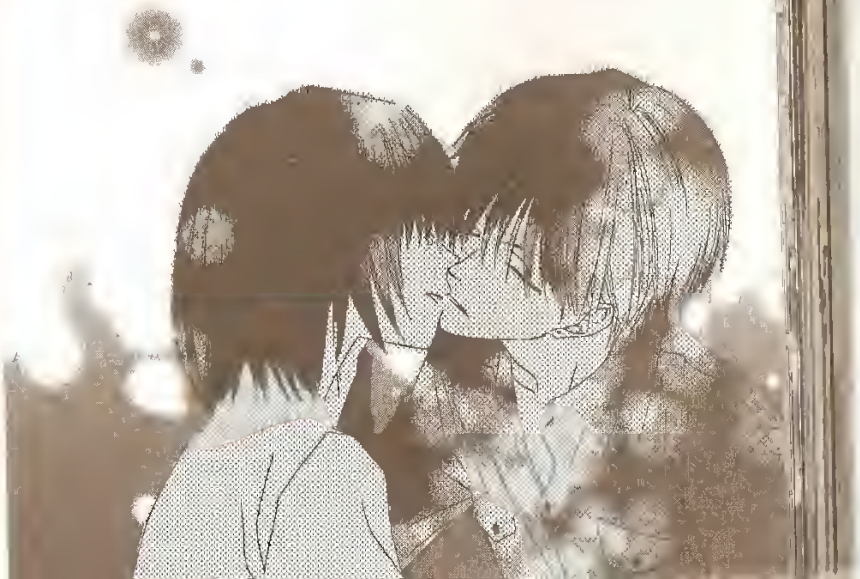
I WENT AROUND SAYING WHATEVER I WANTED.
BUT, IN THE END, I WASN'T ABLE TO DO A THING.
SNIFFLE
THANKS.
NOT ONCE DID I CARRY THROUGH ON MY PROMISES.
I GOT TOO GREEDY. I WANTED IT BOTH WAYS.
AND NOW LOOK.
I'VE GOTTEN YOU INTO A TERRIBLE MESS.

.....
NAH, YOU CAN HOLD IT.
YOUR HAND.
SHOULDN'T I LET GO?

BECAUSE I NEVER EVER WANT YOU TO GO AWAY!
SURE I CAN SAY THAT.
SURE I CAN HOPE FOR THAT.
BUT, IT'S MEANING-LESS IF I CAN'T MAKE IT COME TRUE.
THAT'S RIGHT
SHAKE SHAKE
YOU'RE WRONG.
YOU MANAGED TO DO A LOT.
I'VE CHANGED SINCE MEETING YOU.
BECAUSE I WON'T STAND FOR IT.
THAT'S JUST NOT RIGHT.
HUH?
THAT'S... THAT'S..
YOU'VE HELPED ME IN MANY WAYS
IT WAS NICE HAVING YOU AROUND.

LISTEN. IT'S ALL RIGHT.
YOU'RE COVERING THE WRONG SET OF EYES.
OKAY, SAHARA?
TO THE MONSTERS THAT WANTED BODY PARTS BACK...
TO THE SAVAGE BEAST INSIDE...
I REFUSED TO GIVE IN.
BUT, I WELCOMED THEM, TOO.
BECAUSE FIGHTING MY ENEMIES MADE ME FEEL MORE ALIVE.





I COULDN'T ASK FOR A BETTER END.
SNIF
WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT ME CRYING?!
OF COURSE I'M GOING TO CRY, SILLY!
JUST HOW?
HOW CAN YOU BE HAPPY WITH JUST THAT?
SLUMP
TAKE IT EASY.
YOU HAVE TO.
YOU'VE REACHED YOUR LIMIT.

THAT THOUGHT KEPT ME GOING ALL THESE YEARS.
SAHA-RA...
I'LL BE GONE SOON.
AND, YOU'LL PROBABLY CRY ABOUT THAT.
IT'S DIFFER-ENT NOW.
YOU'RE HERE--- AND THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.

"BREAK THE SPELL BEFORE HER LIFE BURNS OUT."
"STOP IT."
"THAT MIGHT SAVE HER."
WAIT.
I NEED TO BREAK THE SPELL BEFORE HER LIFE BURNS OUT.
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING ON DOING WITH THAT BLOOD?

IT SHOULD WORK NOW.
MY BODY, TOO.
IT'S REALLY WEAK NOW.
FUUUF
"I NEED HER LIFE FORCE TO GET RID OF GERTRUDE."
SKRIIII

NOT SAHARA.

IF ANYONE'S GOTTA DIE, IT BETTER BE ME.

Frailty, thy name is Gertrude.

BELIEVE ME.
I WANTED TO BREAK THE SPELL EARLIER.
HOW?
SHE'S DYING BECAUSE OF ME.
WOW.
YOU'RE PRETTY COLD TO THE TOUCH.
ICE COLD, EVEN.
THAT'S UNFAIR.
I HAD TO WAIT UNTIL MY BODY STARTED GETTING REALLY WEAK.
MY BODY WASN'T MINE TO BEGIN WITH, SO IT WOULDN'T HAVE ACCEPTED THIS COMMAND-- UNTIL NOW.
Frailty,

GER-
TRUDE...?

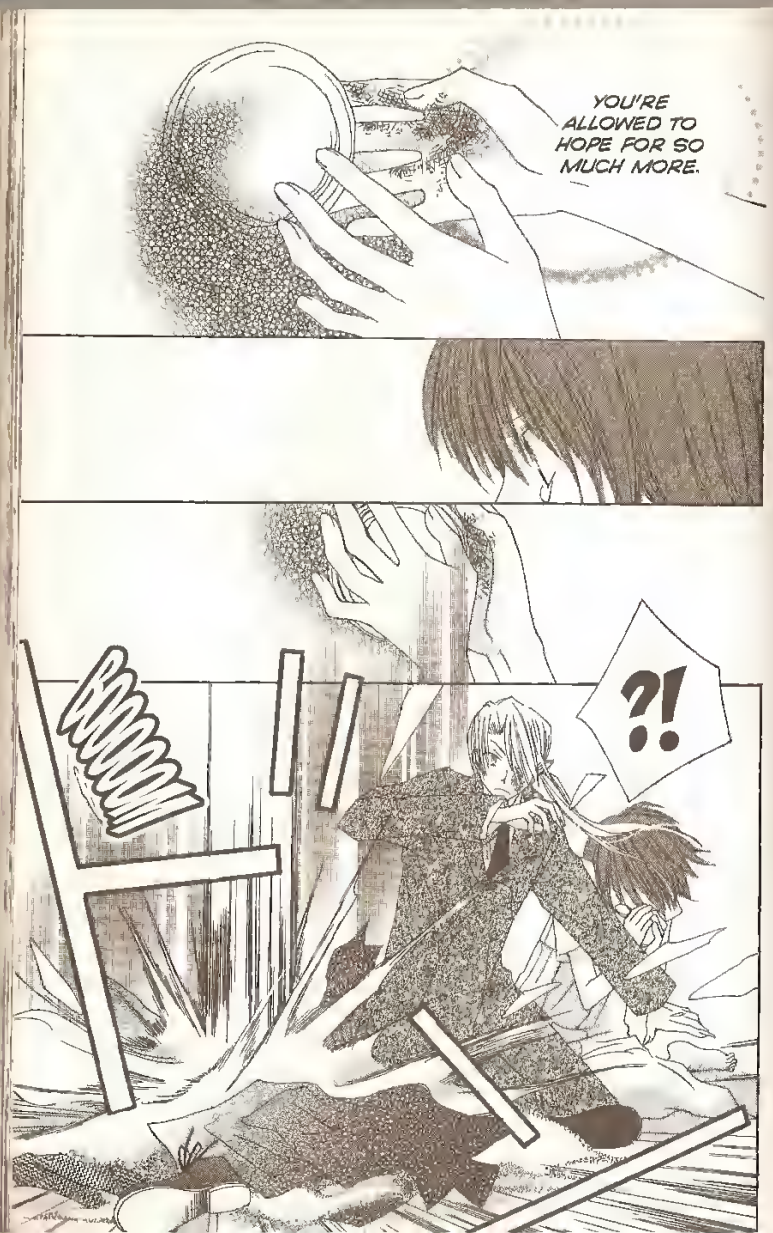
FFFWAP!

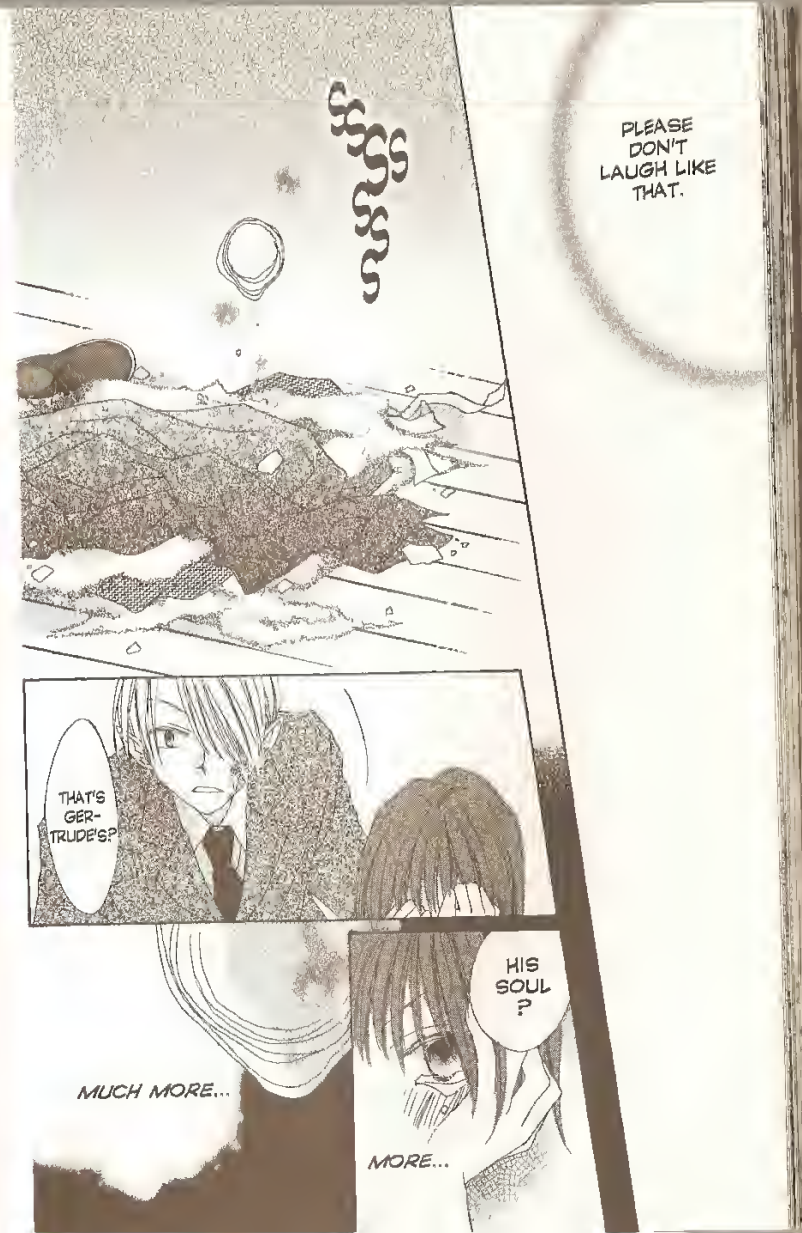
HE BROKE THE SPELL.
BUT... BUT...
THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY.
NONE.

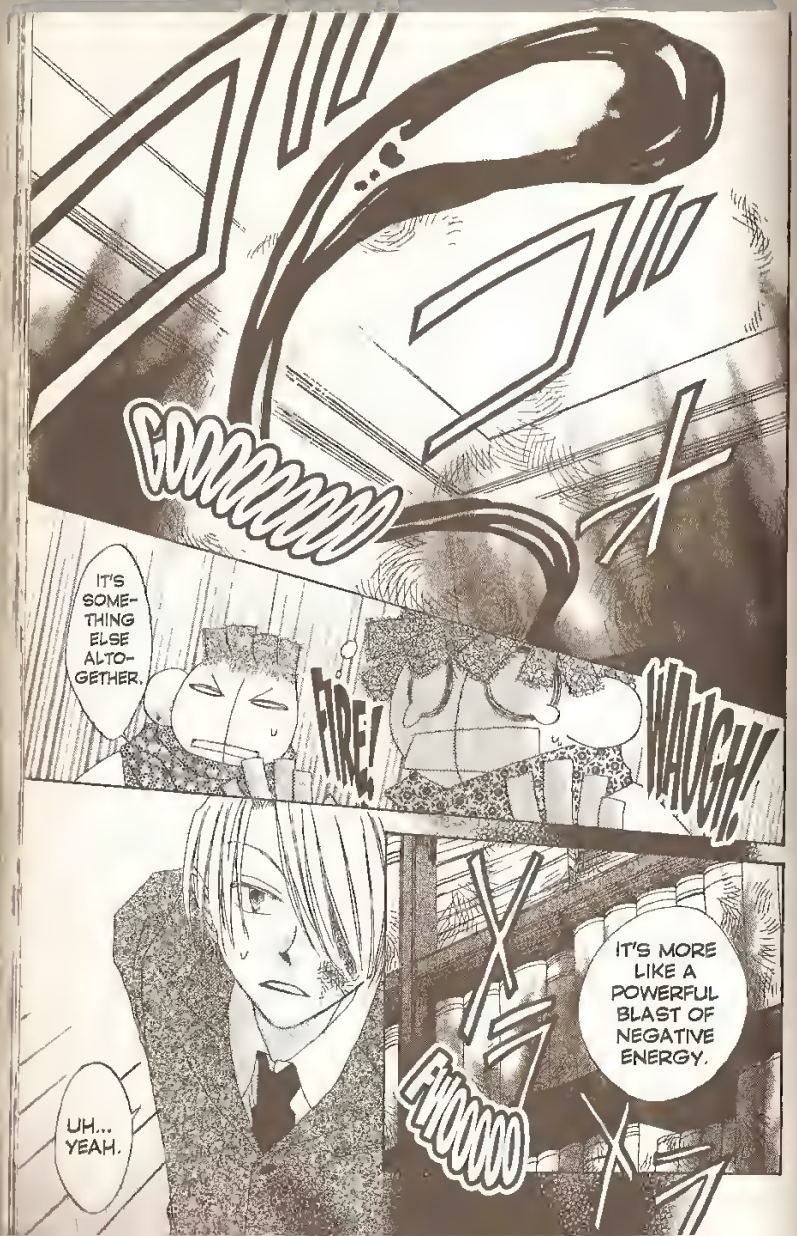
FFFFFFFFFF

NO! NO WAY! NO WAY THAT'S OKAY!
"I COULDN'T ASK FOR A BETTER END."
I WASN'T ABLE TO DO A THING.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT'S NOTHING.
OH, GERTRUDE...
SOB

SOB
SAHARA?
"SAHARA..."
"I'LL BE GONE SOON. AND, YOU'LL PROBABLY CRY ABOUT THAT."
I...
I...

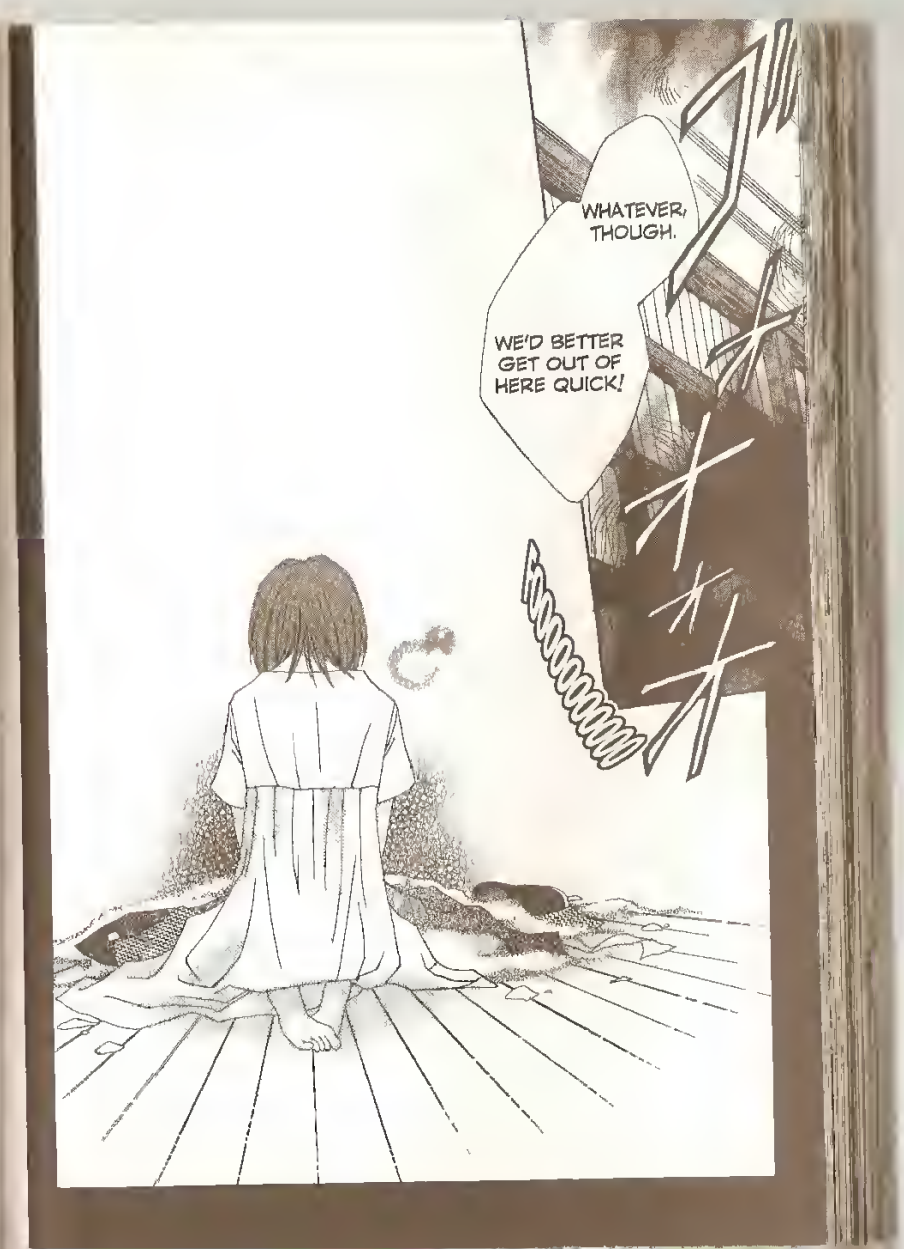

YOU'RE ALLOWED TO HOPE FOR SO MUCH MORE.
?!

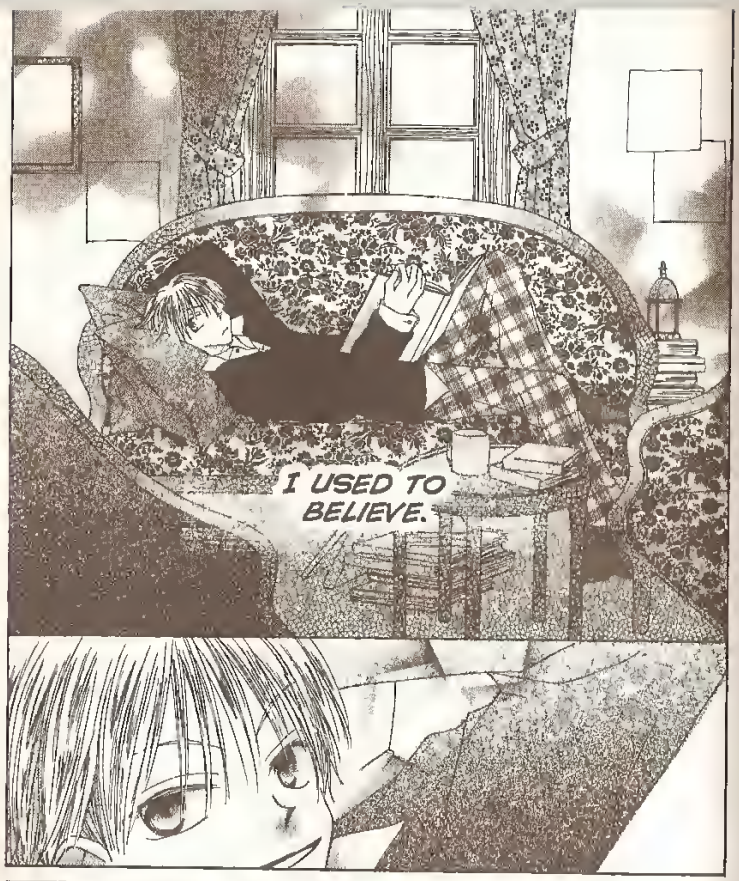

PLEASE DON'T LAUGH LIKE THAT.
SSSSS
THAT'S GER-TRUDE'S?
HIS SOUL ?
MUCH MORE...
MORE...


GOOOOOOOO
IT'S SOMETHING ELSE ALTOGETHER.
FIRE!
WAUGH!
IT'S MORE LIKE A POWERFUL BLAST OF NEGATIVE ENERGY.
FWOOOO
UH... YEAH.

HEY!
WHY ONLY ONE?!
HUH? JUST ONE?
THERE SHOULD BE TWO SOULS LEFT!
3 - 1 = 2
THE REMAINING SOUL!
THAT'S NOT ALL.
THAT'S NOT A SOUL!
GWUU

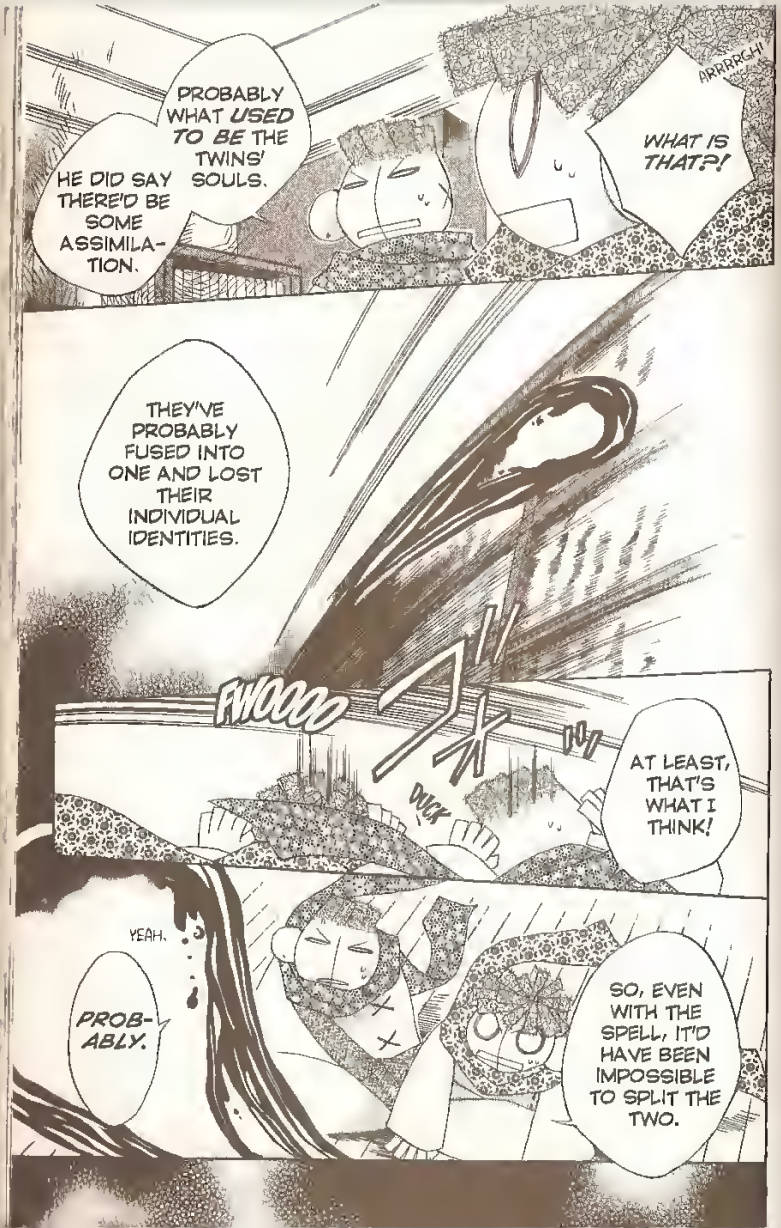
The RECIPE for GERTRUDE
CHAPTER 17

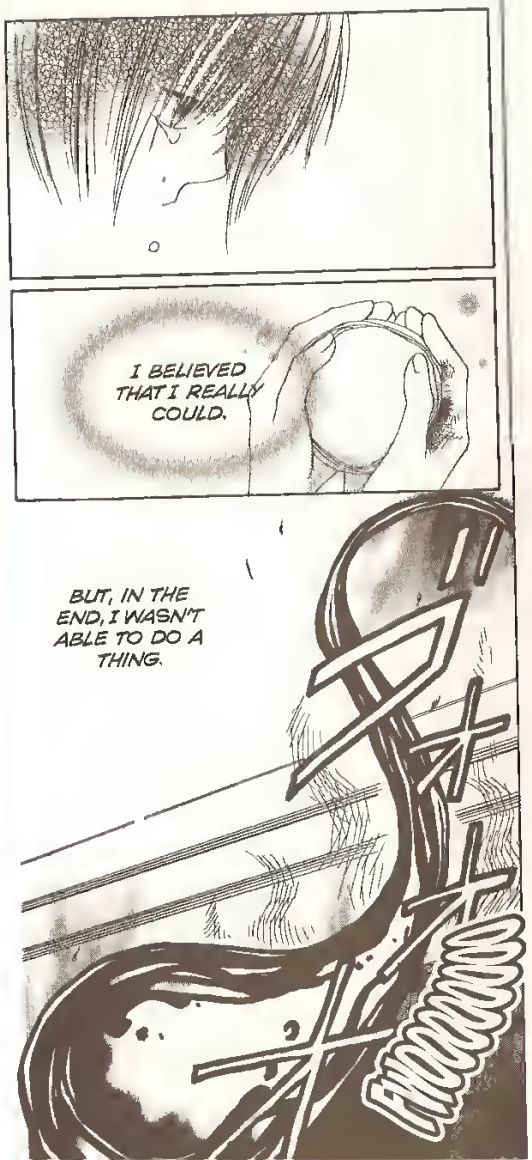

WHATEVER, THOUGH.
WE'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE QUICK!



Preview art for Chapter 17

I have a dress like Sahara's. Now that I look at it, though, it has the same pattern of a certain soft drink's label.


ARRRRGH!
WHAT IS THAT?!
PROBABLY WHAT *USED TO BE* THE TWINS' SOULS.
HE DID SAY THERE'D BE SOME ASSIMILATION.
THEY'VE PROBABLY FUSED INTO ONE AND LOST THEIR INDIVIDUAL IDENTITIES.
FWOOOO
DUCK
AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I THINK!
YEAH.
PROBABLY.
SO, EVEN WITH THE SPELL, IT'D HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO SPLIT THE TWO.



I FELT SO CONFIDENT WHENEVER GERTRUDE WAS AROUND.

IT FELT LIKE I COULD DO ALMOST ANYTHING.

GERTRUDE SAVED YOUR LIFE.
DON'T THROW IT AWAY.
I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO LEAVE.
BUT, THE FLAMES ARE SPREAD-ING FAST.
NOTHING BUT BOOKS IN HERE.
THE ROOM WON'T LAST LONG.
FWOOOOSH
DUCK!
THAT WAS TOO CLOSE
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS HERE.

IT'S NEITHER HALON NOR HER SISTER.
SURE, THEIR SOULS MAY HAVE BEEN MAGICAL, BUT THEY'RE GONE.
CLAUDE.
...WAS TOO LATE.
IT'S SOMETHING ELSE AL-TOGETHER.
FWOOOOOOOO
SAHARA?

04

Claude

I really didn't think he'd be easily moved by the other characters, but as it turns out he's the exact opposite. He inherited his passion for demons from his grandfather and father. His mother didn't approve, though, so they were hardly on the best of terms.

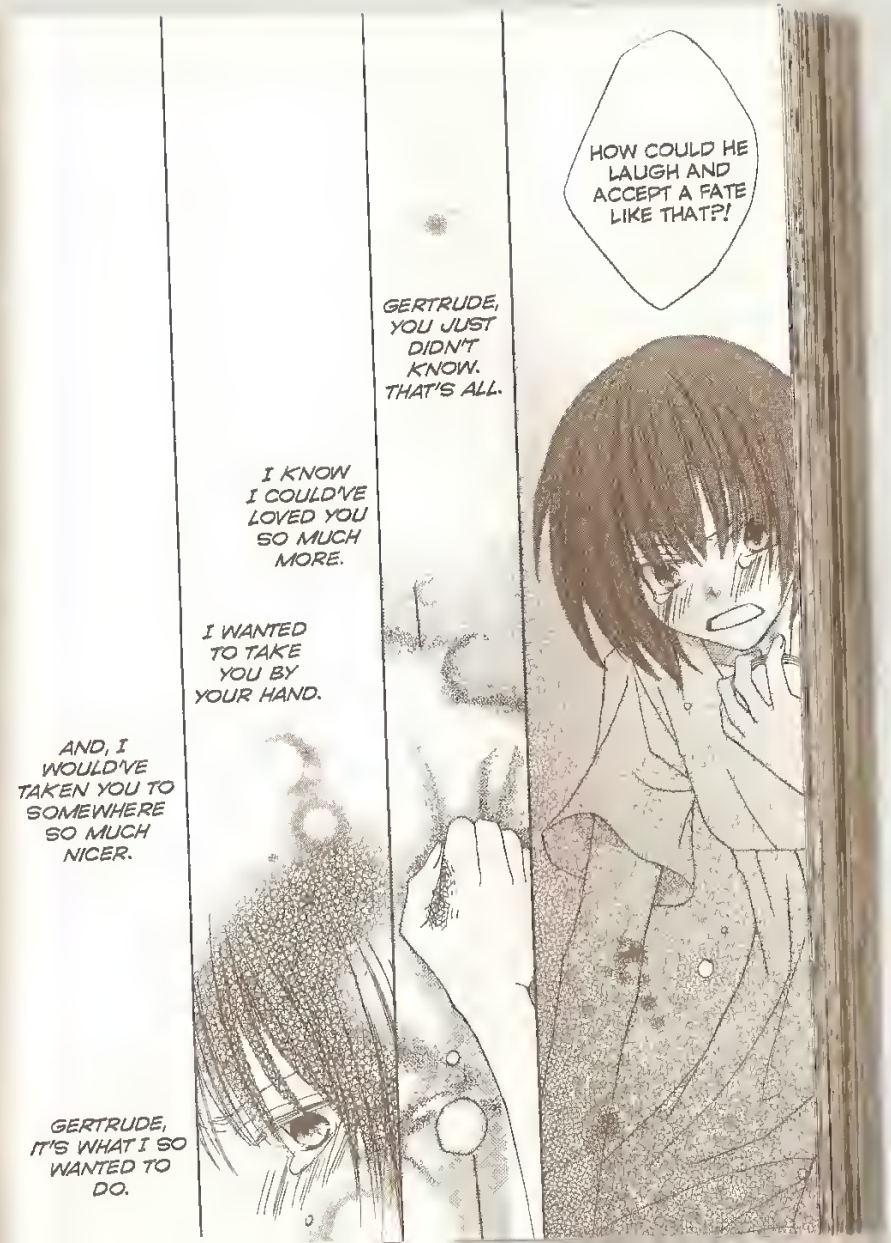
Curtis

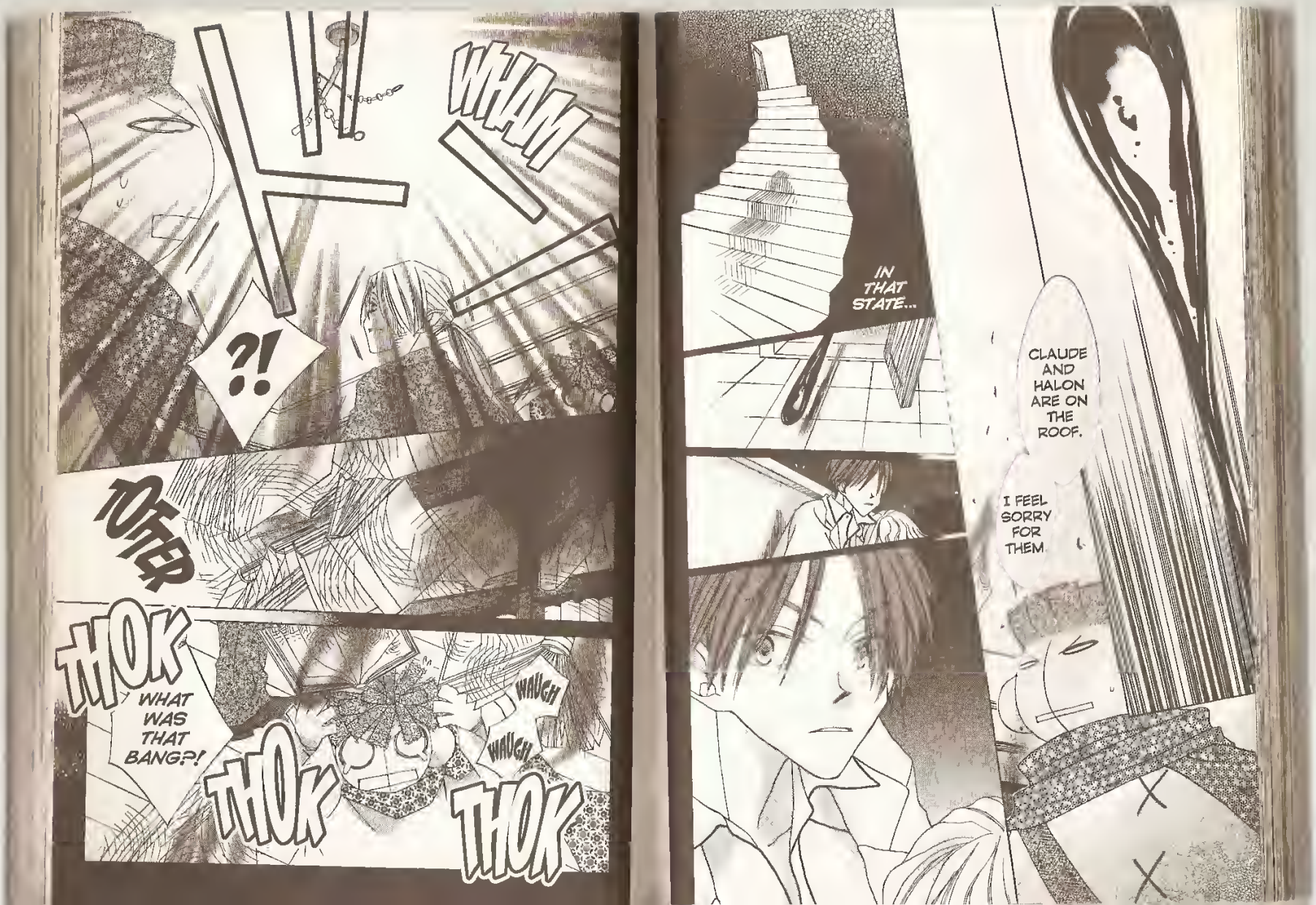
He often steals the explanatory lines from Mariotte. Nonetheless, I like him; he's fun to draw. His tie is always black because he's in mourning.

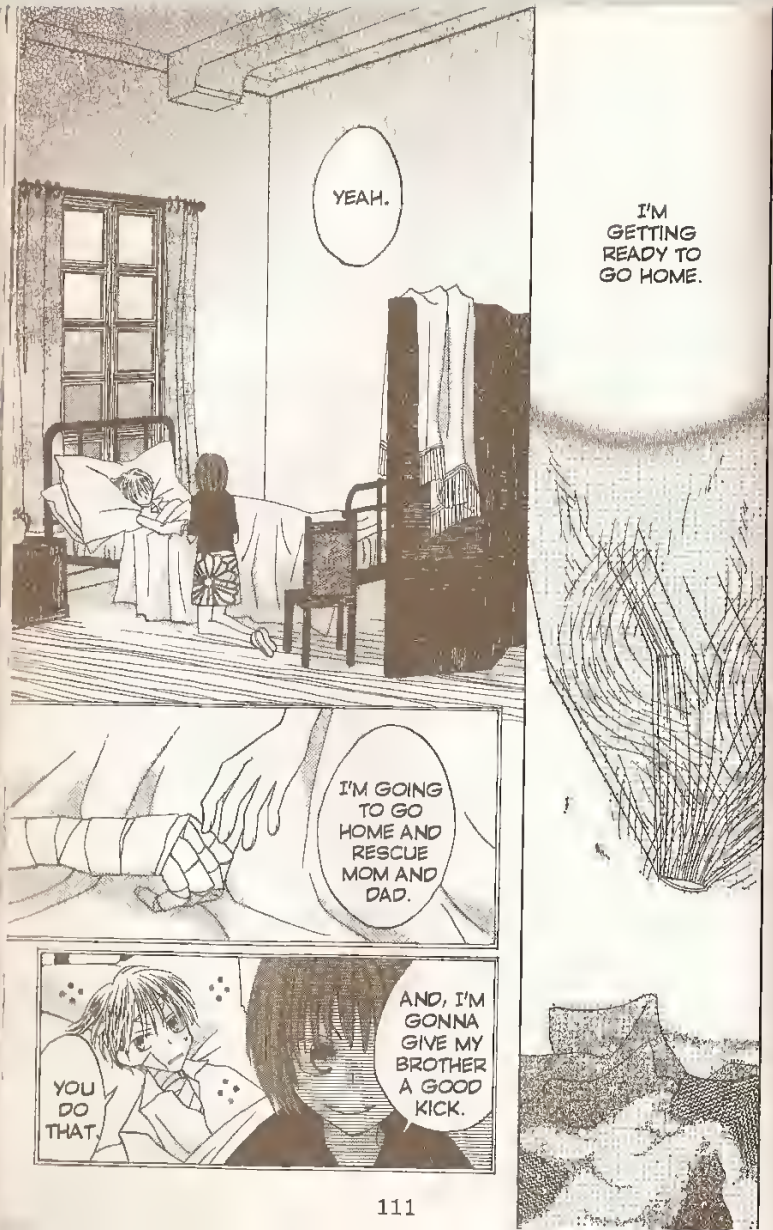
I DON'T THINK GER-TRUDE REGRETS IT.
BUT, I DO.
SPLOT
GERTRUDE WOULD FIGHT TO KEEP HIS BODY.
BEYOND THAT, THOUGH, HE NEVER WANTED MORE.
HE GAVE IT ALL AWAY FOR JUST A FEW OF MY TEARS?!

SAHA-RA?
IT MUST'VE BEEN A DESPERATE STRUGGLE TO STAY ALIVE.
AND, HE FOUGHT DEMONS THAT WANTED BODY PARTS BACK.
THAT THING
IT'S SO SAVAGE.
YET...
I MADE HIM THROW IT ALL AWAY.
BUT, HE KEPT IT IN CHECK UNTIL NOW.

SPLOT SPLOT
IT'S FLYING UPSTAIRS!


HOW COULD HE LAUGH AND ACCEPT A FATE LIKE THAT?!
GERTRUDE, YOU JUST DIDN'T KNOW. THAT'S ALL.
I KNOW I COULD'VE LOVED YOU SO MUCH MORE.
I WANTED TO TAKE YOU BY YOUR HAND.
AND, I WOULD'VE TAKEN YOU TO SOMEWHERE SO MUCH NICER.
GERTRUDE, IT'S WHAT I SO WANTED TO DO.


WHAM
?!
TOTER
THOK
WHAT WAS THAT BANG?!
THOK
WAUGH
WAUGH
THOK
IN THAT STATE...
CLAUDE AND HALON ARE ON THE ROOF.
I FEEL SORRY FOR THEM.


YEAH.
I'M GETTING READY TO GO HOME.
I'M GOING TO GO HOME AND RESCUE MOM AND DAD.
YOU DO THAT.
AND, I'M GONNA GIVE MY BROTHER A GOOD KICK.

JUST MAYBE, THIS WILL...
CURTIS?
YOU REALLY OUGHT TO--
SMASH
WHUGH

THE PATIENT'S HUNGRY.
OKAY!
I COULD DO WITH SOMETHING TO EAT ABOUT NOW.
MARIOTTE! SOME-THING TO EAT!
CHAP CHAP
REALLY.
MOST OF MY DREAMS HAVE COME TRUE.
SQUEEZE
NO. YOU DON'T DREAM NEARLY ENOUGH.

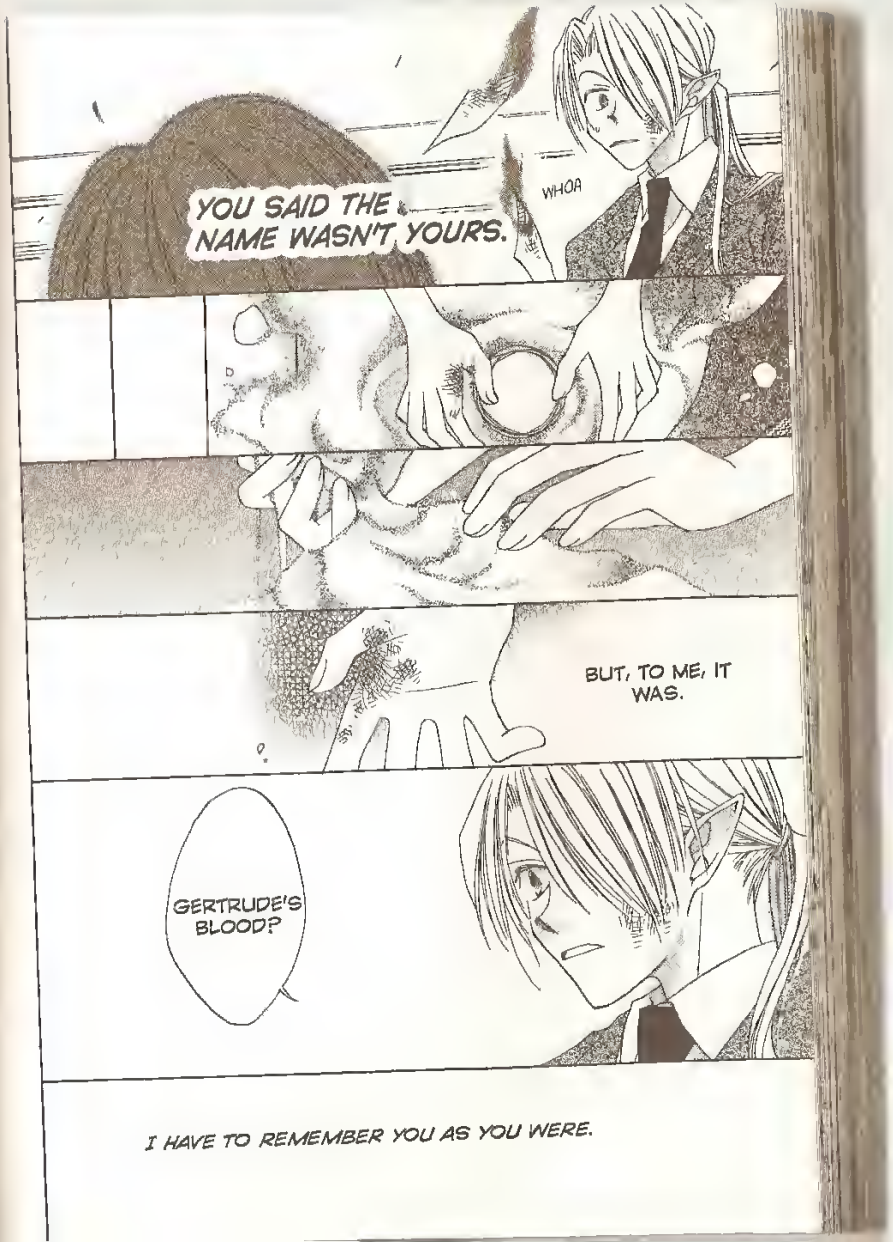
I HOPE EVERY-THING TURNS OUT.
YOU'RE ASKING FOR A LOT, THOUGH.
I'VE GOTTEN PRETTY MUCH EVERYTHING I'VE WANTED SINCE COMING HERE.
GER-TRUDE, WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I AM. BUT, YEAH.
MAYBE JUST THE RECIPE NOW.
REALLY?
ANY-THING ELSE?
WELL, I'M TAKING CARE OF THE PROBLEM, TOO.

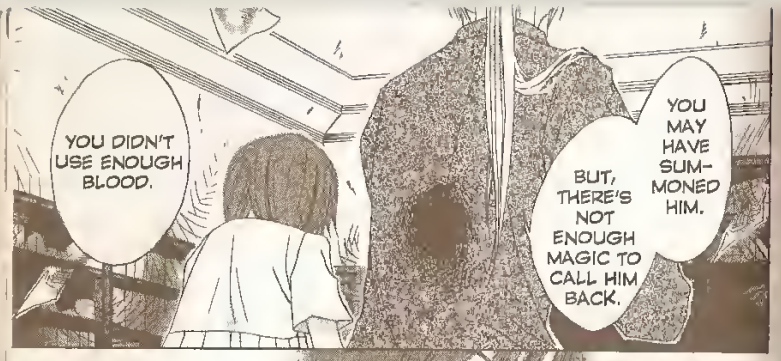
I WANTED TO MAKE YOU HAPPY.
BASE!

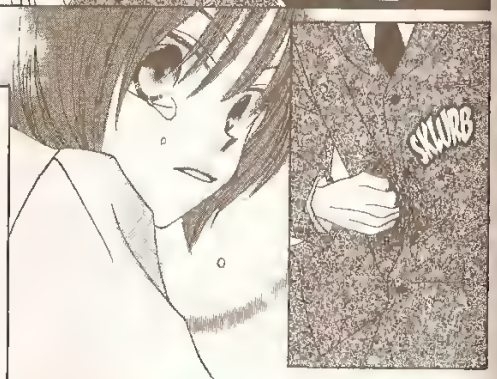
YOU CAN HAVE WAY MORE DREAMS, YOU KNOW
WHY DID I HAVE TO GET YELLED AT?
?
THUD THUD THUD
ALL RIGHT?!
I'M SAYING IT'S OKAY TO WANT MORE!
IN FACT, I ORDER YOU TO COME UP WITH NEW DREAMS!
MANY MORE WILL COME TRUE.
I MEAN IT, GER-TRUDE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

GERTRUDE...

THAT SHOULD GIVE THE SPELL WARMTH.
I'LL SUMMON YOU WHILE THINKING OF YOU.
Frailty, thy name is Gertrude!
AND, IT SHOULD BREATHE LIFE INTO IT.
FRAILTY, THY NAME IS...
THY NAME IS...WHAT?


YOU SAID THE NAME WASN'T YOURS.
WHOA
BUT, TO ME, IT WAS.
GERTRUDE'S BLOOD?
I HAVE TO REMEMBER YOU AS YOU WERE.


YOU DIDN'T USE ENOUGH BLOOD.
BUT, THERE'S NOT ENOUGH MAGIC TO CALL HIM BACK.
YOU MAY HAVE SUMMONED HIM.


SKURB

CURTIS?

BESIDES, I'M ALREADY BLEEDING
IT'S NOT REALLY IDEAL FOR MAGIC.
STILL, IF IT'S JUST TO HELP...

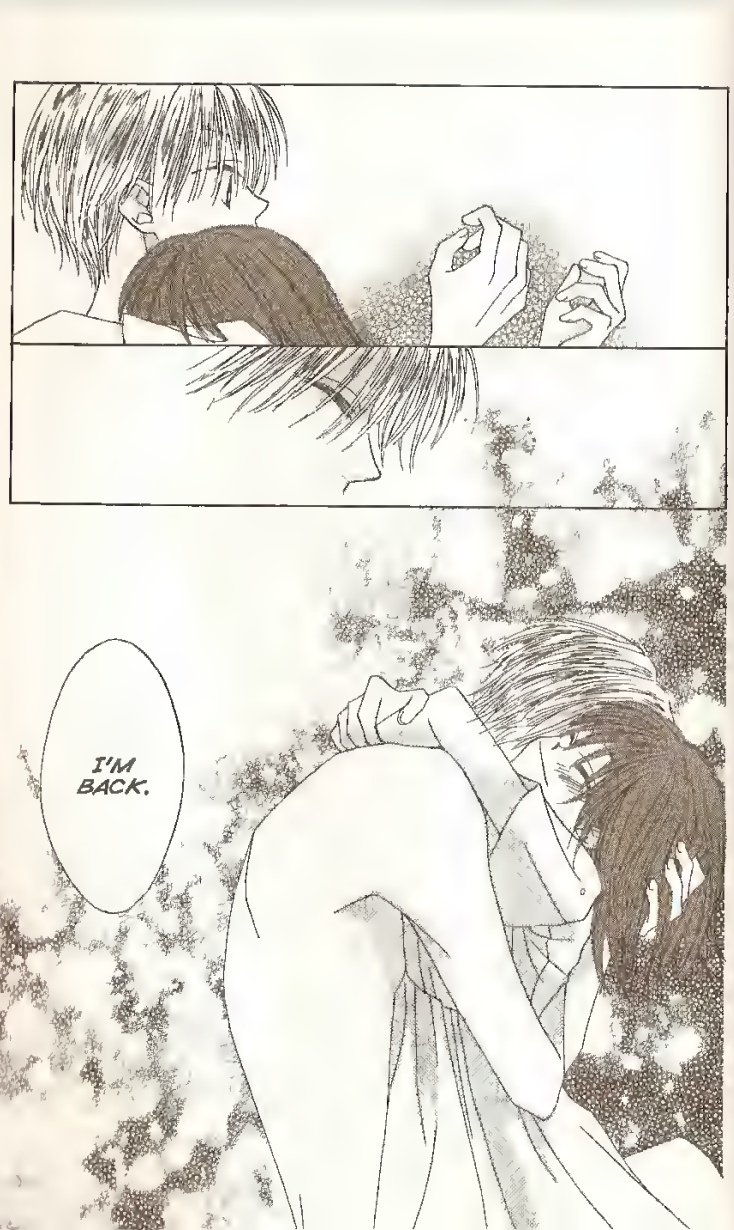
ブォォォ

CAN YOU HEAR ME?
COME BACK.
PLEASE, COME BACK.
Frailty, thy name is Gertrude.
GERTRUDE!

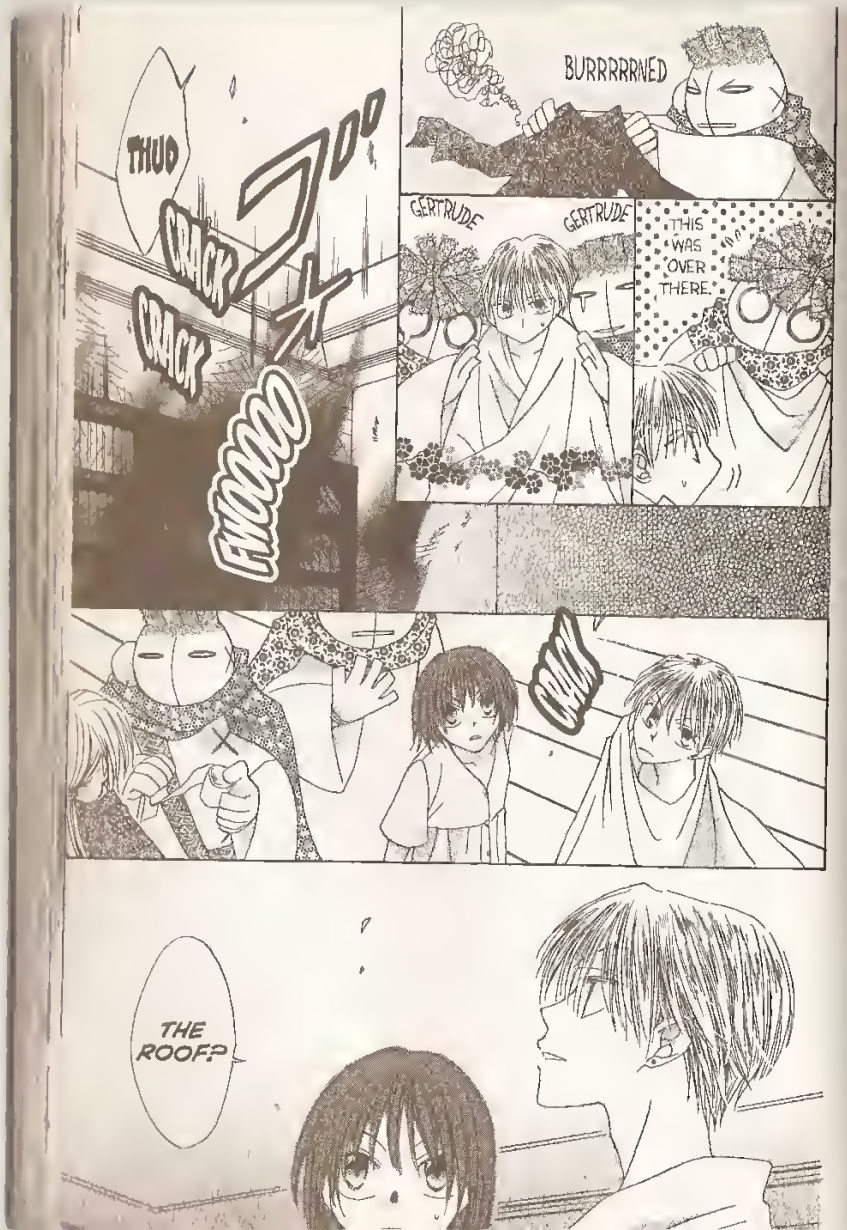
FLAP!
FLAP
MARIOTTE!
PUPPEN!

GERTRUDE!

SHOOT!


I'M BACK.

SAHARA?
HUG...
OH, GERTRUDE!


THUD
CRACK
CRACK
BURRRRRNED
GERTRUDE
GERTRUDE
THIS WAS OVER THERE.
CRUNCH
THE ROOF?

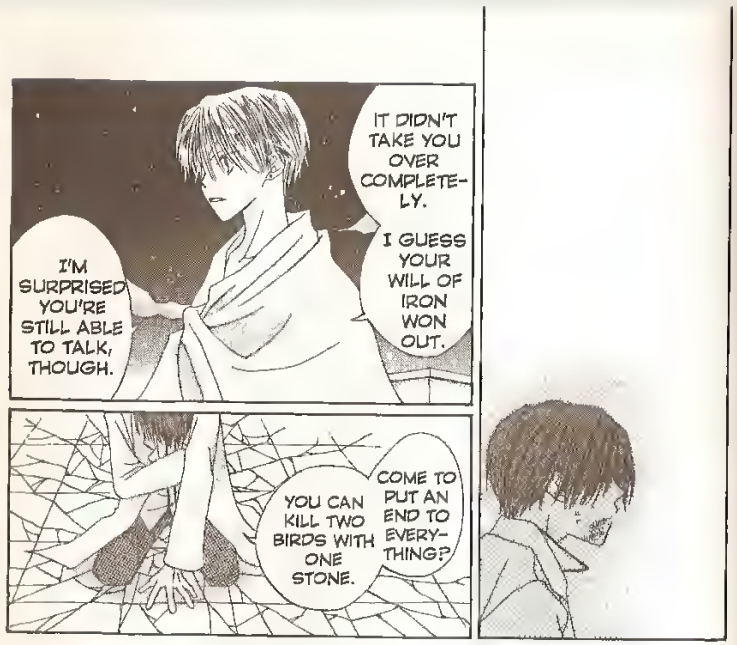
HEE HEE
YOU KNOW...
IT'S NICE BEING ALIVE.
SAHA-RA?
CAN WE STAY LIKE THIS FOR A BIT?
HURRY
HURRY
WILL SOMEONE GET ME SOME-THING TO WEAR?

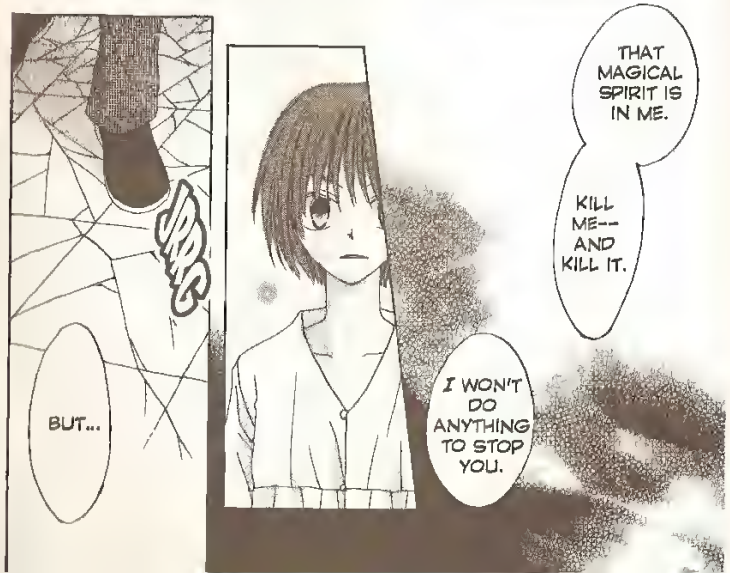
IT'S HOT.
IT FEELS LIKE I'M GOING TO BURN UP FROM THE INSIDE OUT.
A FIRE IS RAGING, AND I'M LOSING EVERYTHING TO IT. MY MIND. MY MEMORIES. EVERYTHING.
HUFF
HUFF

THE TWO SOULS ARE HOPE-LESSLY SNARLED.
IT CAN'T UNDO ITSELF.
NOT THAT SHE CARES ABOUT THE PAST.
WHAT SHE REALLY WANTED THE WHOLE TIME WAS...
SHE'S GONE BERSERK.
SHE DOESN'T WANT JUST HER SISTER.
SHE WANTS MORE.

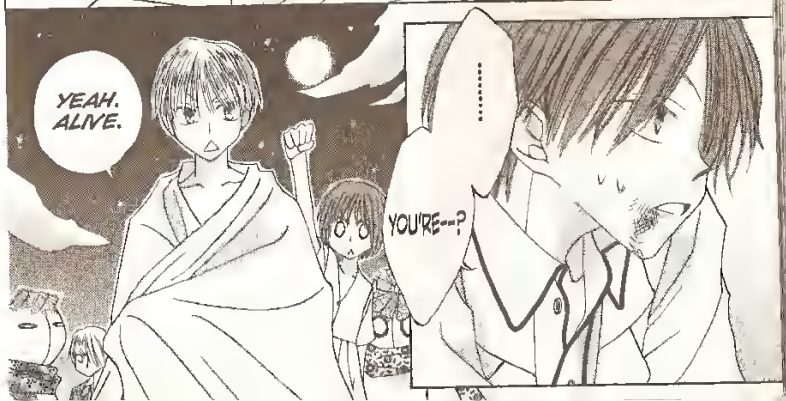
NOTHING'S LEFT.
NOTHING WAS RESTORED. IT WAS ALL FOR NOTHING.
OUCH
ZZZZZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ

WHAM
I WAS TOO LATE.
CRACK CRACK
AND, THIS IS THE PRICE I PAY.


IT DIDN'T TAKE YOU OVER COMPLETE-LY.
I GUESS YOUR WILL OF IRON WON OUT.
I'M SURPRISED YOU'RE STILL ABLE TO TALK, THOUGH.
COME TO PUT AN END TO EVERY-THING?
YOU CAN KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE.

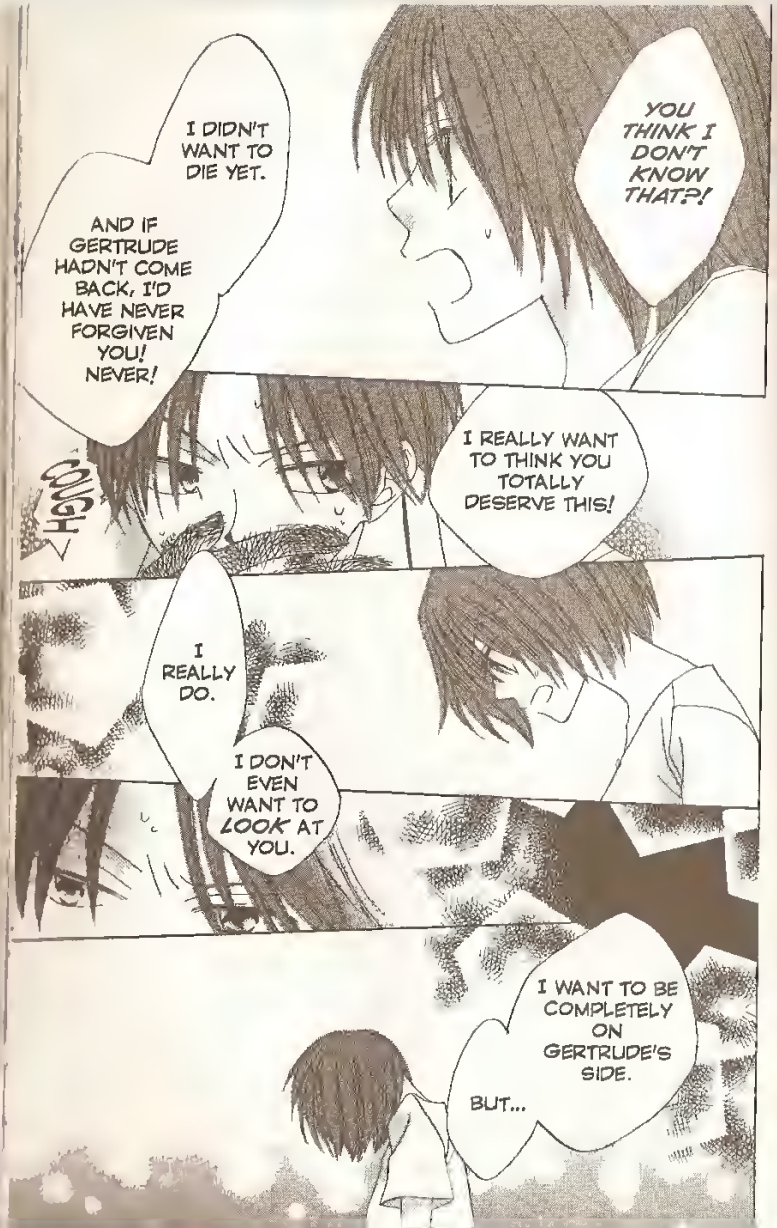

THAT MAGICAL SPIRIT IS IN ME.
KILL ME--- AND KILL IT.
I WON'T DO ANYTHING TO STOP YOU.
SRC
BUT...

SO IT DID GO INTO YOU.


YEAH. ALIVE.
YOU'RE---?
.....

PLINK PLINK
DODGE
KYUSAKU!
SZZZZ
DON'T... CALL...ME THAT.
GASP
GASP

IF IT WERE REALLY SMART, IT'D HAVE LEFT YOUR BODY.
IT'LL DESTROY ITSELF IF IT USES MAGIC WHILE IN A HUMAN BODY.
THAT SAID...
THE THING INSIDE DOESN'T WANT TO GO QUIETLY.
IT'S GONE BERSERK, BUT IT CAN AT LEAST SENSE DANGER.
YEAH, I KNOW.
GWOOOF


YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW THAT?!
I DIDN'T WANT TO DIE YET.
AND IF GERTRUDE HADN'T COME BACK, I'D HAVE NEVER FORGIVEN YOU! NEVER!
COUGH
I REALLY WANT TO THINK YOU TOTALLY DESERVE THIS!
I REALLY DO.
I DON'T EVEN WANT TO LOOK AT YOU.
I WANT TO BE COMPLETELY ON GERTRUDE'S SIDE.
BUT...

YEAH, SURE.
HUMPH
I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM.
IT'S HARD ON HIM 'CAUSE HE'S STILL CONSCIOUS.
HE CAN FEEL THE PAIN.
BASH

SIZZZ
SIZZZ
SIZZZ
SIZZZ

KYU-SAKU...
DON'T CALL ME THAT.
GASP
I TRIED TO USE YOU AND GERTRUDE.
DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND?

THUD
IT'D HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT SAHARA.
NOBODY ELSE HAS THAT MUCH POWER TO SUMMON ME.
SHE FACED UP TO TOUGH DECISIONS AND BECAME STRONGER FOR IT.
AND, THAT IS WHAT MAKES HER SO SPECIAL.
THAT IS WHAT MAKES HER SO STRONG.
REALLY.
COUGH
AND, YOU KNOW WHAT ELSE?
SHE STILL THINKS OF YOU AS HER BROTHER.

I JUST CAN'T DO THAT.
GASP
YOU JUST DON'T GIVE UP, DO YOU?
IT'S THAT WAY OF THINKING THAT PREVENTED GERTRUDE FROM DOING ANYTHING.
YES-- AND NO!
RIGHT?
THWAP
I'M BACK, AREN'T I?

GERTRUDE!
ZA-ZZZ
ZAN
I DON'T WANT TO BE SAVED.
I... HAVE... HAD.. IT.
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE IT.
HURRY UP AND DEAL WITH IT.
CORRRACK
IT'S VERY POWER-FUL.
YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW THAT.

CHOMP
SAVE YOU.
SO?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO ME?
MIND YOU, THAT MIGHT BE HARD FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU TO UNDER-STAND.
DON'T.
BOOF
!!

GOOOOO
UNFIT.
KYUSAKU!
THE BODY ITSELF IS BURN-ING.
IT WON'T TAKE ANY MORE.

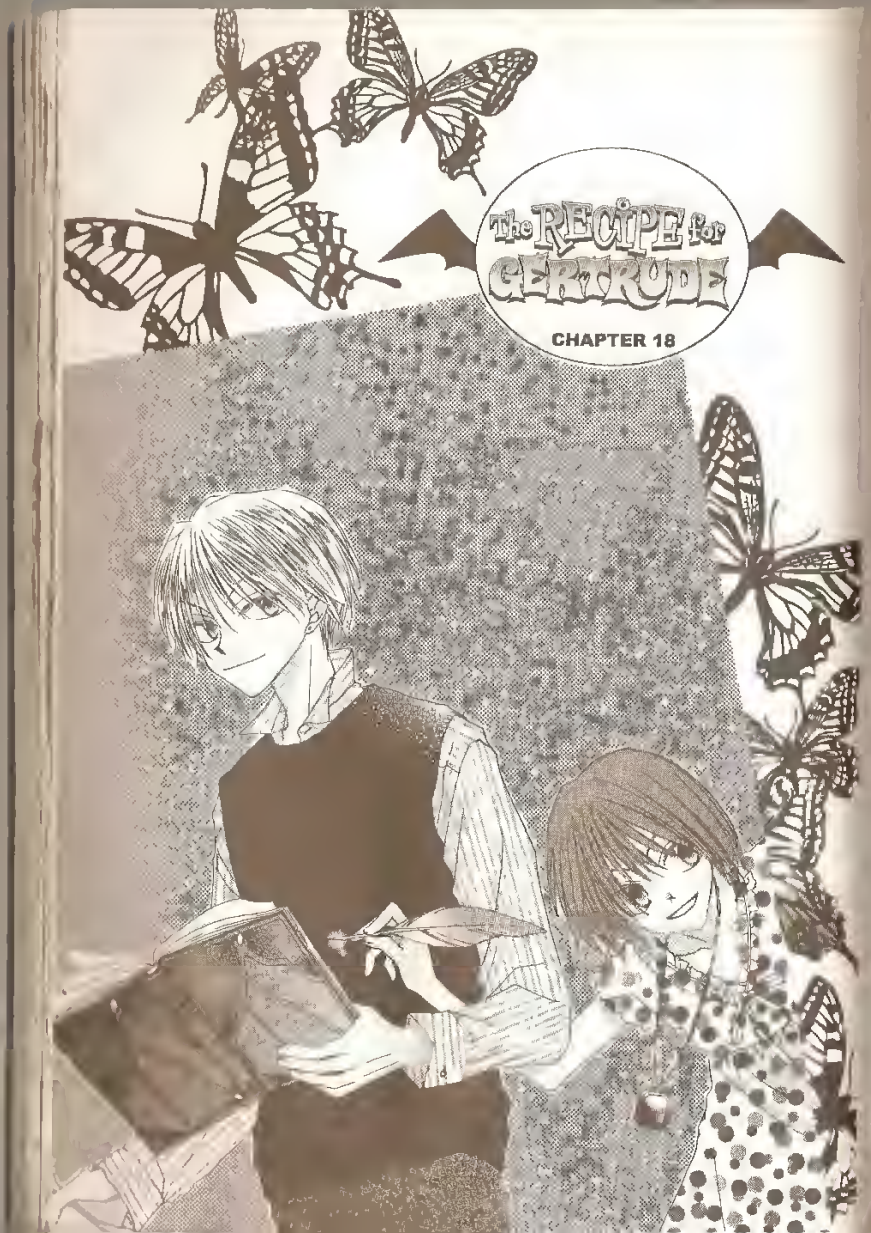
I'M SICK OF BEING ORDERED AROUND.
COUGH COUGH
YOU DON'T GET TO CALL THE SHOTS ANY MORE.
WHY BOTHER SAVING ME?
COUGH
SO I CAN CONTINUE BEING HER "DEAR" BROTHER?
I CHOSE HALON OVER HER.
I'M UNFIT FOR THAT.

WHERE DO YOU GET OFF SAYING YOU'RE UNFIT?
YOU FORFEITED THAT RIGHT.
DON'T GO THINKING YOU GET TO CALL THE SHOTS ANYMORE.
A POWER-FUL SPIRIT?

IT'S BETTER THIS WAY.
IT'S TIME TO...DIE.
GRAB
CLAUDE!

THY NAME IS CLAUDE.

I HELD IT DOWN FOR 100 YEARS.
FRAILTY...
WITH THIS BLOOD, I ORDER YOU.
BE GONE, YOU INSIGNIFICANT SOUL!



Preview art for Chapter 18

Requirement: Give it a pop feel.

As this was for the preview to the final story, I put a lot of effort into it. It turned out looking very plain, though. So, what went wrong?

HUUUB
AHOOO
SQUEEZE
SEE THAT? YOU DOG...

BE GONE, YOU INSIGNIFICANT SOUL.
GRRRR...
OUT!
FORCE IT OUT!

05

Storekeeper

I never intended to give him such a big part. He condescends to Puppen the most.

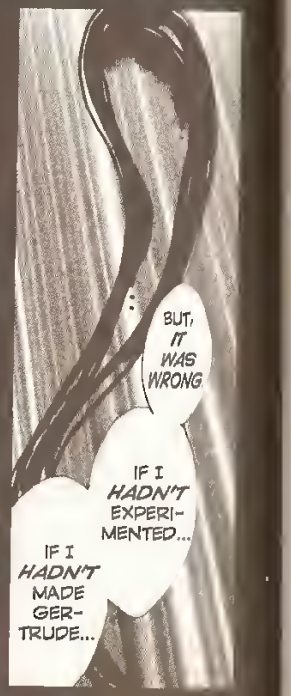
Shippei

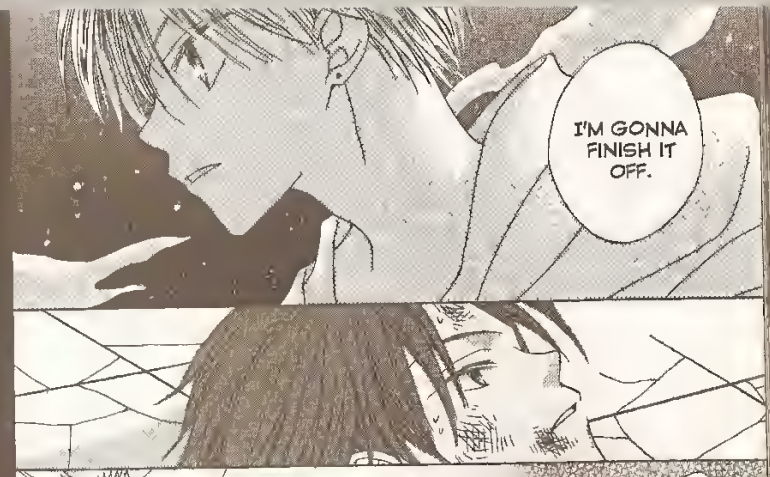
A male mongrel. He's partial to pretty faces.

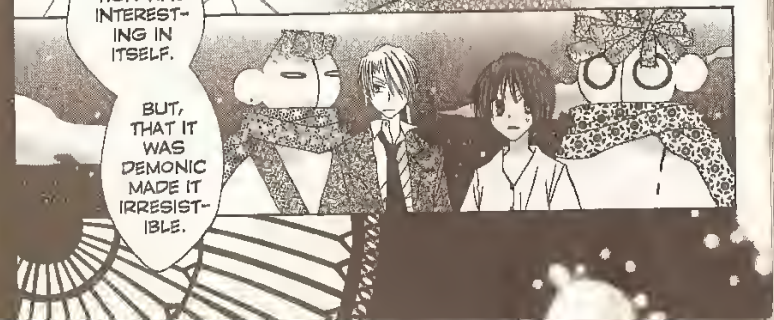
Whony

Readers have been asking what happened to him. Let's just say a lot and, right now, he's in the doghouse. (Literally, because it's Shippei's).

See you at the end of the book.



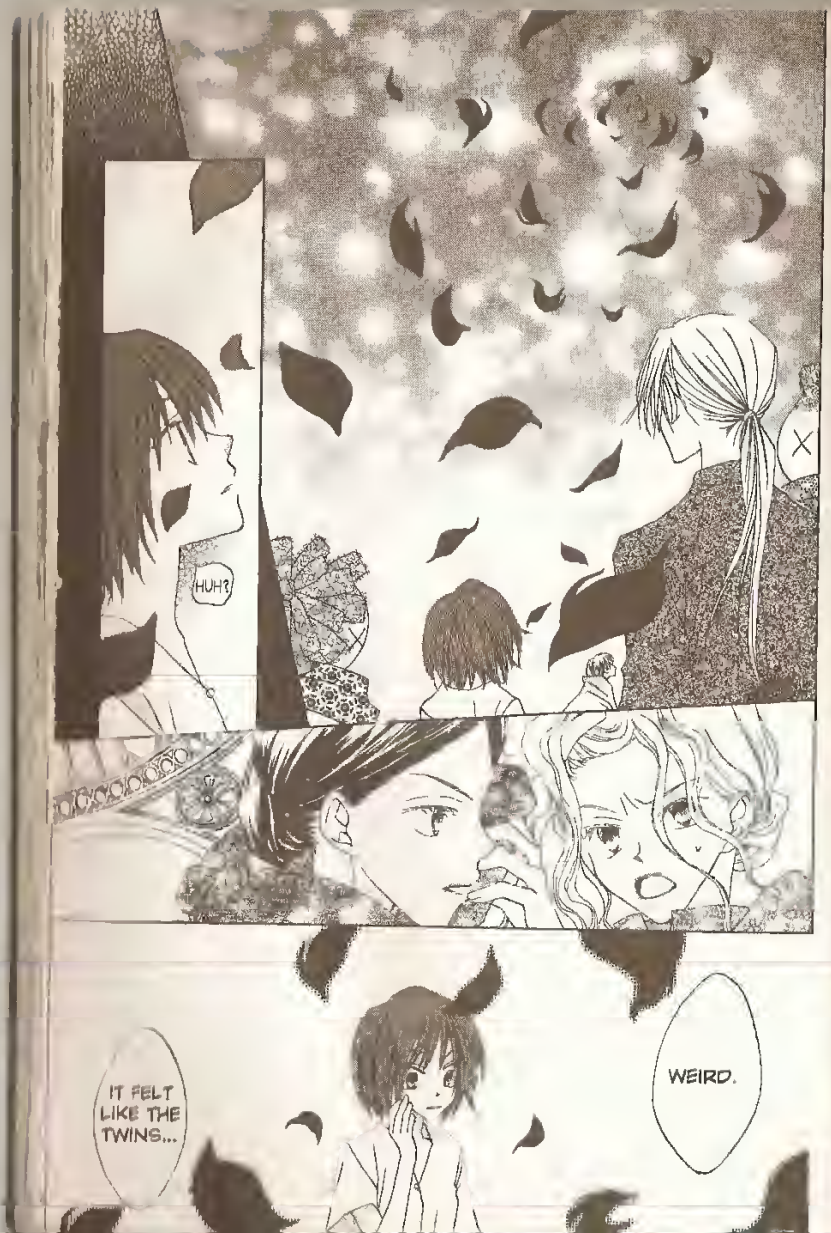




BUT NOW...
I'LL DO MY BIT BY RISING ABOVE THE MESS.
SO YOU SHOULD.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE MADE YOU.
I REALLY USED TO THINK THAT.

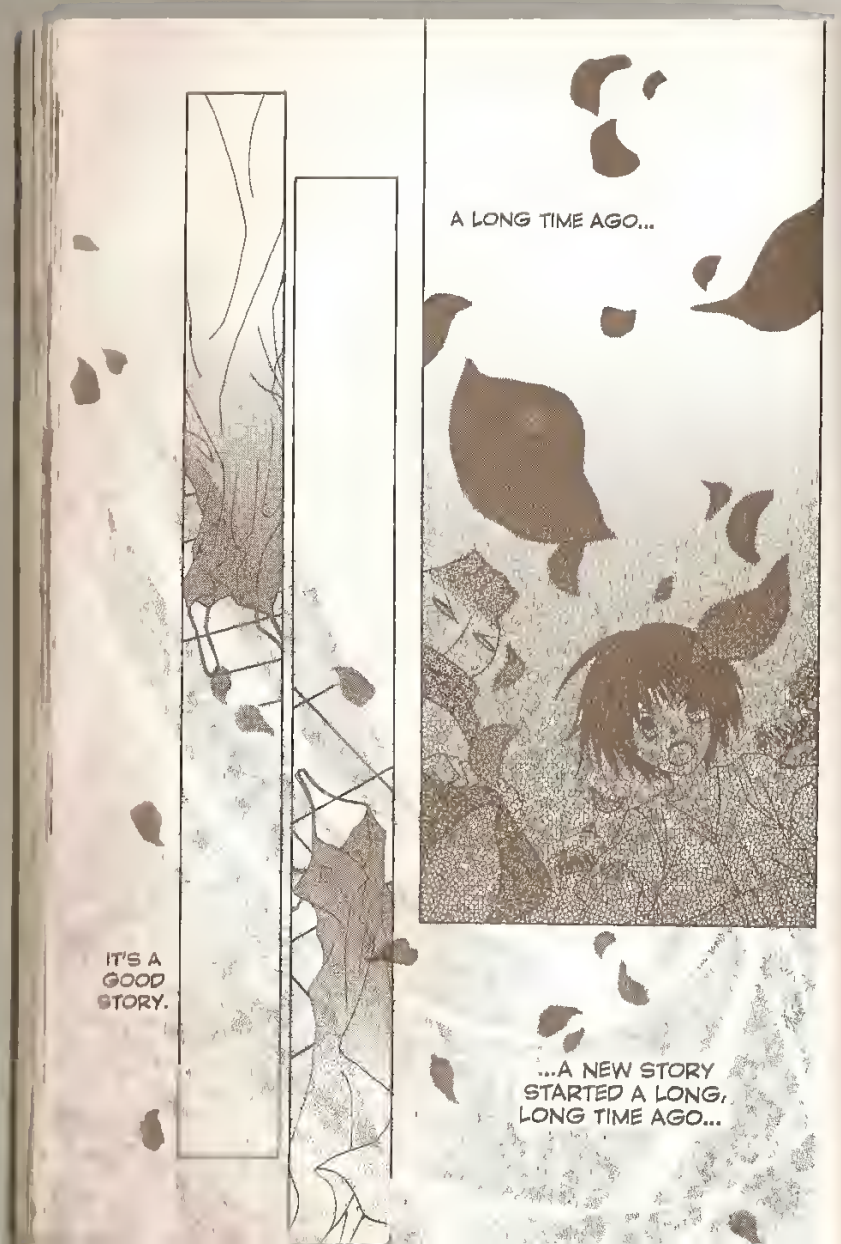
IF IT'S A SHOW OF STRENGTH, I'M STRONGER!
SKRU!

WHAM
BZZZZ BZZZZZ
ZZZZZZZZ


HUH?
IT FELT LIKE THE TWINS...
WEIRD.

TODAY'S THE LAST I'LL EVER SEE OF YOU!
PFFFFF
SLAAAAASH

BUT...
SSSS
SSSS
SSSS
SO, WHO JUST DIED?
IF YOU WERE TO ASK ME...
...I'M NOT SURE ANYMORE.
MAYBE THEY WERE STRONG.
OR, MAYBE THEY WENT DEEP.
THEY WERE PROBABLY SEARED IN.
I'D SAY THEY WERE RESIDUAL MEMORIES.
...HALON'S REGRET.
THIS IS...
...FORGIVE HER FOR THAT TRAGEDY.
I WILL NEVER...


A LONG TIME AGO...
IT'S A GOOD STORY.
...A NEW STORY STARTED A LONG, LONG TIME AGO...

WHAT SHOULD I HAVE DONE? WHERE AND WHEN DID I GO WRONG?

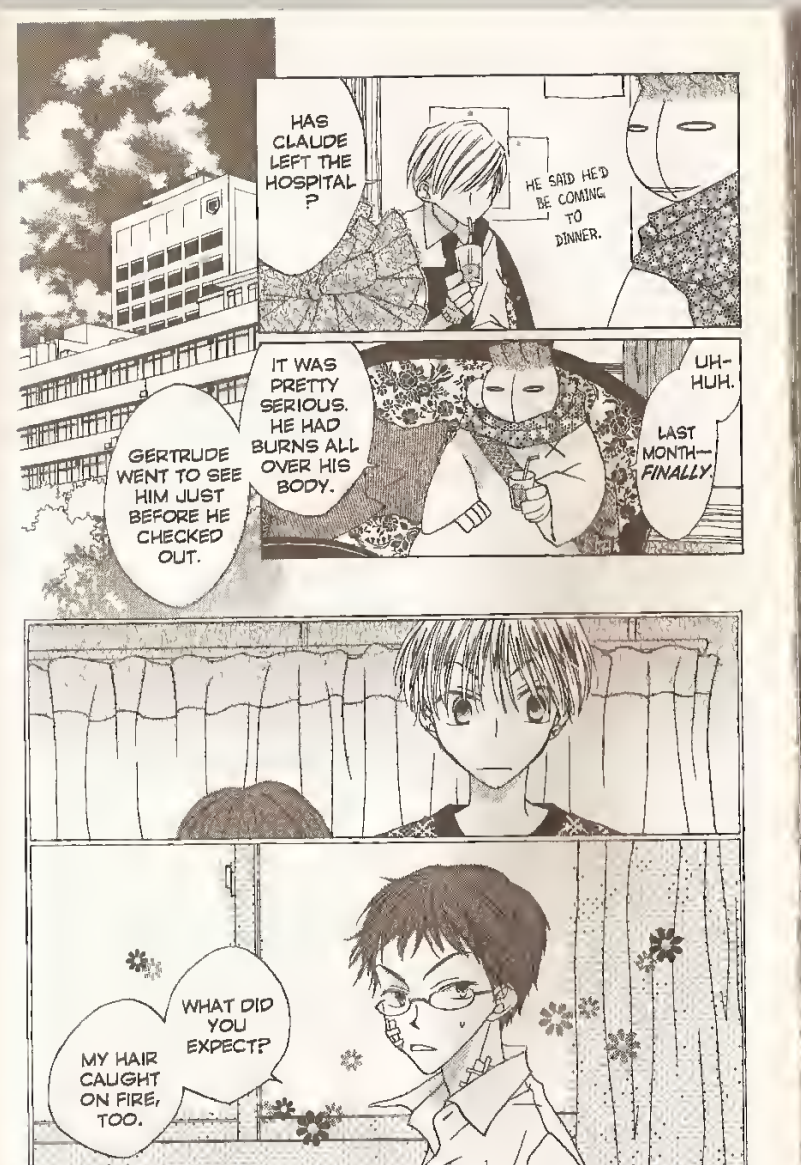
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
EXCUSE ME.
I'VE BROUGHT THE BOOKS YOU ORDERED.

ITS HERO IS EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD.

YOU'RE VERY, VERY GOOD.
TRUDGE TRUDGE
NO, I WILL NOT LET YOU REPLAY YOUR HAND.
HEH HEH
HE'S VERY GOOD.
I WISH HE'D STAY FOREVER.
HUH?
AH, SHUT UP. WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO ABOUT IT?
EXCUSE ME.
I CAN'T LET YOU GO IN WITHOUT THE STOREKEEPER'S AUTHORIZATION.
ALL HAPPY
HEY...
OH-OH..!
CRACK
I'M GONNA MAKE YOU CRY.

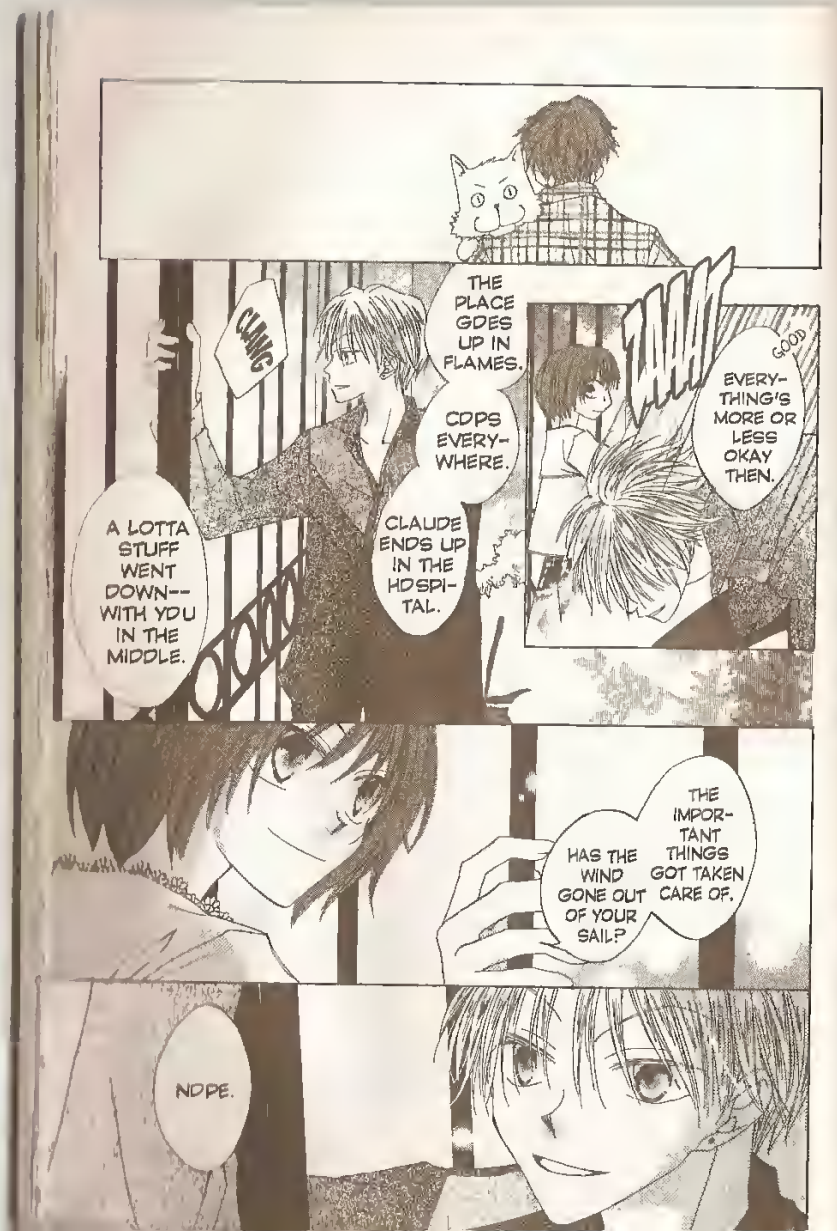
AH, THANKS FOR COMING.
NOT AT ALL.
IT'S KINDA NICE MAKING THE ODD DELIVERY.
GET SOMEBODY.
THAT IS SO INSULTING!
GO ON
THE WOLF AND THE SEVEN LITTLE GOATS
THERE WAS NO ONE I COULD TRUST.
SLURRRP
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D EVER LEAVE THE STORE.
SO? HOW IS THE HELP?
REBUILT (FOR THE MOST PART.)
NO!
CRAK

THIS IS ACTUALLY ON THE LONG SIDE.
RIGHT?
HE WAS TOTALLY BALD WHEN HE WAS IN THE I.C.U.
BALD.
YOU LOOK REALLY... CLEAN-CUT FOR A CHANGE.
IT SUITS HIM.
THESE SCARS... (SIGH)...


HAS CLAUDE LEFT THE HOSPITAL?
HE SAID HE'D BE COMING TO DINNER.
GERTRUDE WENT TO SEE HIM JUST BEFORE HE CHECKED OUT.
IT WAS PRETTY SERIOUS. HE HAD BURNS ALL OVER HIS BODY.
UH-HUH.
LAST MONTH—FINALLY.
MY HAIR CAUGHT ON FIRE, TOO.
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?

SLURRRRRP
YEAH, SO CLAUDE'S LEAVING HOME.
TODAY'S MOVING DAY.
OH, REALLY?
HEY
I DON'T SEE GERTRUDE. DID HE GO TO HELP?
SLURP
THANKS.
NAH.
HE'S IN THE YARD SOMEWHERE.
SAHARA'S SUPPOSED TO BE COMING BY SOON.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

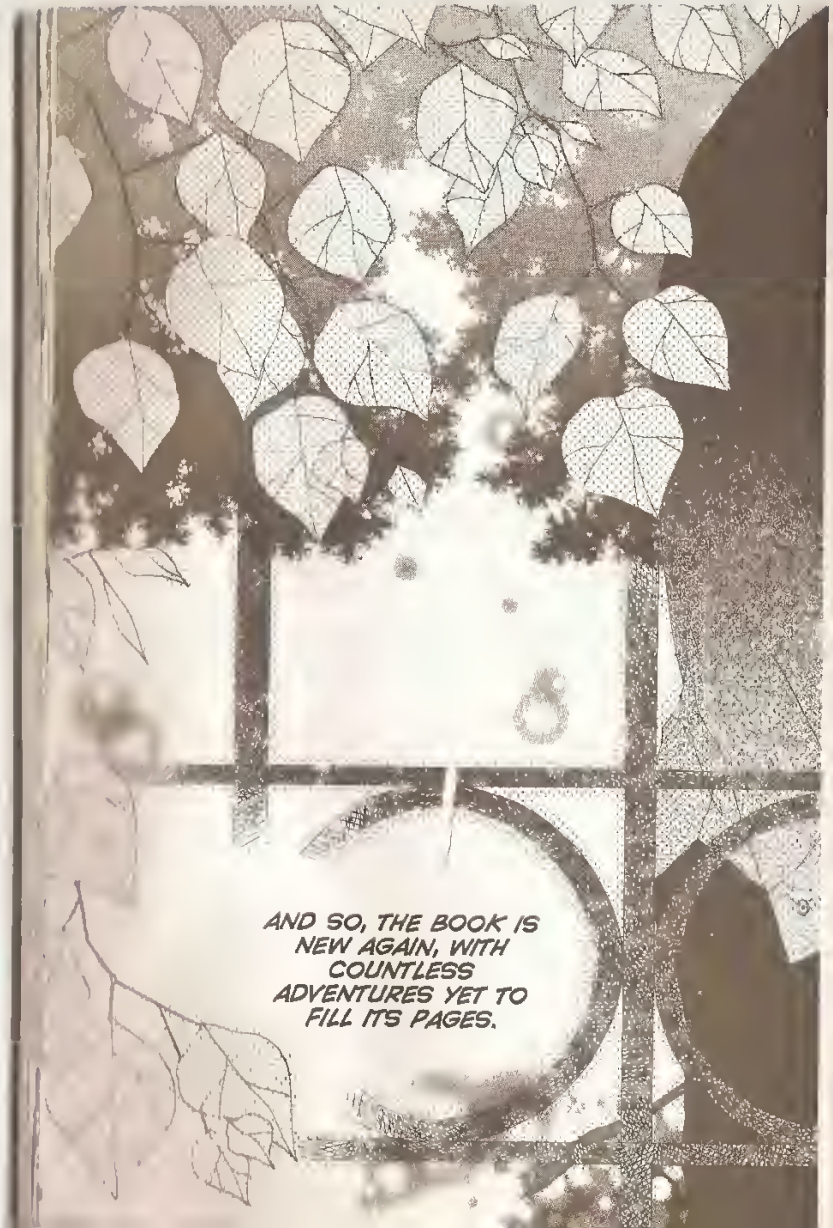
A LOT OF THEM ARE NEVER GOING TO COMPLETELY HEAL.
THEY'RE GONNA DISFIGURE ME FOR LIFE.
BUT, THAT DOESN'T MEAN PEOPLE ARE GOING TO AVOID ME.
AT LEAST...
...THE DOC SAID SO.
I WAS HOPING YOU'D SHARE HIS OPINION, SAHARA.
OF COURSE.
YOU'RE MY BROTHER.


A LOTTA STUFF WENT DOWN-- WITH YOU IN THE MIDDLE.
CLANG
THE PLACE GOES UP IN FLAMES.
COPS EVERY-WHERE.
CLAUDE ENDS UP IN THE HOSPI-TAL.
ZAAAT
GOOD
EVERY-THING'S MORE OR LESS OKAY THEN.
HAS THE WIND GONE OUT OF YOUR SAIL?
THE IMPOR-TANT THINGS GOT TAKEN CARE OF.
NOPE.

A PRESENT.
IT'S FROM MY HOUSE.
HERE..
I THOUGHT HE'D BE LIVING ALONE, BUT...
OH!
WHAT? THEY FORCED IT ON HIM?
TO MY MOM AND DAD, IT'S LIKE HE ALMOST DIED ON THEM AGAIN.
ACTUALLY, HE DID THE FIRST TIME.
DID CLAUDE FINISH MOVING?
OH, YEAH.
I SAW HIM OFF.
HE'S ONLY AN HOUR AWAY BY CAR.

YOU KNOW WHAT, SAHARA?
WHAT, GERTRUDE?
I HAVE A NEW DREAM.
WANNA HEAR IT?

I'M SURE OTHER DEMONS WILL WANT BODY PARTS BACK.
I CAN HEAR THOSE CLOWNS EVEN OUTSIDE.
THEY'VE TURNED THIS PLACE INTO A PARTY HOUSE.
SO, I HAVE TO STAY ON MY TOES.
YEAH.
IT'S PRO-BABLY GOING TO GET...
WELL... INTER-ESTING.


AND SO, THE BOOK IS NEW AGAIN, WITH COUNTLESS ADVENTURES YET TO FILL ITS PAGES.

VERY MUCH SO.

BONUS STORY

THE TALE OF SHIPPEITARO

I got Shippei's name from this story. There are several versions, but I'm basing it on the one I read as a child.

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A TRAVELING MONK.
LATE ONE EVENING, HE HAPPENED UPON A SHRINE IN THE MOUNTAINS
WITH NARY A PLACE TO STAY THE MONK CHOSE TO PASS THE NIGHT IN THE LITTLE SHRINE
BOO HOO
DEAR GODS
WE LEAVE YOU OUR ANNUAL OFFERING
THEN, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...
BOO HOO

PAGE UPON PAGE...

THE RECIPE FOR GERTRUDE

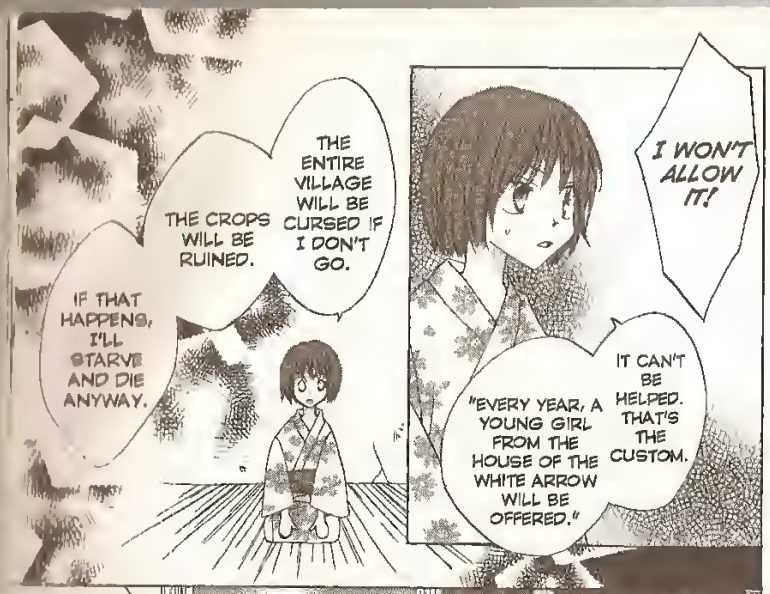
THE RECIPE FOR GERTRUDE, VOLUME 4--END.

WHAT ARE THEY?
IS SHIPPEI-TARO HERE?!
SHIPPEI-TARO ISN'T HERE!
SO THIS IS THIS YEAR'S SACRI-FICE.
WHAT KIND OF SWEET GIRL IS IT?
GOOD THEY'RE MAN-EATING MONSTERS!
GNASH GNASH GNASH
CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP
MMM
YUMMY
TIME TO EAT!
SHE LOOKS DELECT-ABLE!
POP

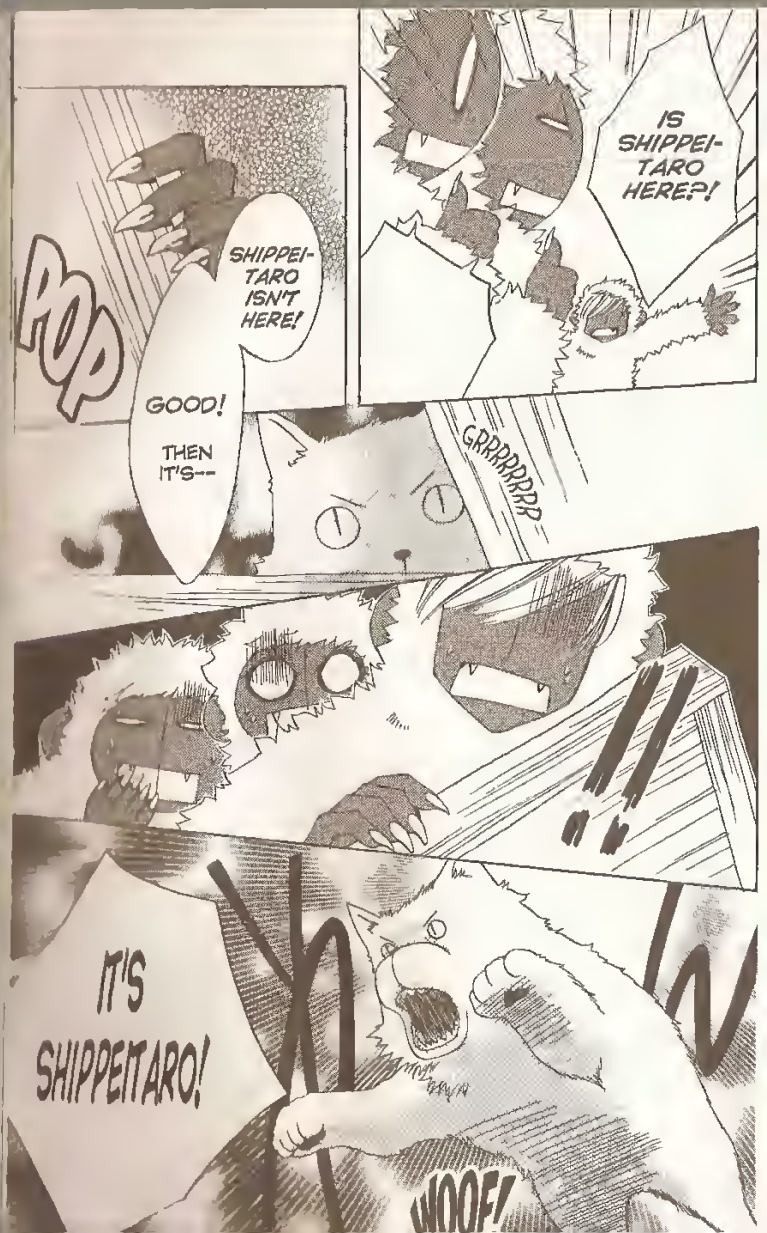
OFFER-ING?
RUSTLE
DON'T TELL HIM
DON'T TELL...
DON'T TELL HIM OF THIS OR THAT.
DON'T TELL SHIPPEITARO OF SHINANO!
TADAAAA!

ALMOST A YEAR HAD PAST WHEN SUDDENLY...
SHIPPEI-TARO, WHERE ARE YOU?
WOOF
IS THERE A PERSON NAMED SHIPPEITARO AROUND HERE?
NOPE
DO YOU KNOW A SHIPPEITARO?
SORRY, I DON'T.
SHIPPEI-TARO?!
THIS DOG?!
WOOF WOOF
HEH HE'S NOT ANY DOG.
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH MY DOG, SHIPPEI-TAROU?

I CAN'T DEFEAT THEM BY MYSELF
I'M JUST A TRAVELING MONK
SHIPPEITARO?
GNASH GNASH
WHO IS HE?
WHOEVER HE IS, THEY'RE TERRIFIED OF HIM.
IF I CAN BRING THIS SHIPPEITARO HERE, THEN THE VILLAGERS WON'T HAVE TO SACRIFICE THEIR DAUGHTERS ANYMORE.
SHINANO
(CURRENTLY NAGANO PREFECTURE)
I GUESS I'M OFF TO SHINANO THEN.


THE ENTIRE VILLAGE WILL BE CURSED IF I DON'T GO.
THE CROPS WILL BE RUINED.
IF THAT HAPPENS, I'LL STARVE AND DIE ANYWAY.
I WON'T ALLOW IT!
"EVERY YEAR, A YOUNG GIRL FROM THE HOUSE OF THE WHITE ARROW WILL BE OFFERED."
IT CAN'T BE HELPED. THAT'S THE CUSTOM.
I GET IT NOW!
THOK!
BUT... BUT...
MONSTERS?
IT ISN'T THE GODS WHO WANT TO EAT YOU.
THEY'RE MONSTERS. I SAW THEM MYSELF.
YOU'VE BEEN FOOLED ALL ALONG.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I SEE...
HE'S MEAN.
HE'S PART WOLF.
CAN I BORROW HIM?
YOUR DOG.
THIS YEAR'S SACRIFICE IS TO BE OUR DAUGHTER!
NOOOOO!
OH NO! THE WHITE ARROW!
GASP
IT'S THE SIGN!


POP
SHIPPEI-TARO ISN'T HERE!
GOOD! THEN IT'S--
IS SHIPPEI-TARO HERE?!
GRRRRRRP
IT'S SHIPPEITARO!
WOOF!

WOOF
GOODNESS
THE MONSTERS ARE SCARED OF SHIPPEI-TARO.
TONIGHT, I'LL GO INSIDE THE SACRIFICIAL BOX INSTEAD.
SO WILL SHIPPEI-TARO HERE.
ENTER
DON'T TELL
DON'T TELL HIM OF THIS OR THAT.
DON'T TELL SHIPPEITARO OF SHINANO!

NO
Date 2002-2003

KUSAKAWA'S NOTES

The records of "The recipe for Gertrude".

ABOUT THE STORIES

The Recipe for Gertrude-- Chapter 14

The idea for the mist that accompanies the "rewind" spell came from a package of sweets I took to the editorial department one day. The cookies were called "escargots" I thought the lettering and design were cute--not that you can tell by looking at the manga, though.

The Recipe for Gertrude--Part 15

I remember having fun doing this one despite the nature of the story. Drawing different clothing for a change was novel in a way. I once watched a TV show that said haunted places in Corby, England command very good prices. Apparently, they're even marked as such in the ads.

THUS, SHIPPEI-TARO VANQUISHED THE MONSTERS.

AND, THE VILLAGE WAS SAVED.

THE END.

THE TALE OF SHIPPEITARO--END.

The main story ends here, but please stay tuned for a little longer because there is going to be a volume five. It will include more side stories and other goodies.

To my readers
My editor, publisher, and everyone else who helped
Family and friends
and liquor store where I do my photocopying...

Thank you very much.

2003.05.

Kusakawa's notes / End

The Recipe for Gertrude--Part 16

I thought I drew a lot of hands for this episode. I like hands. They might not be difficult to draw, but they can be very expressive. Still, I need to work on them more. I also need to work on making bare feet look more graceful. Come to think of it, there are lots of other things I need to work on. Practice makes perfect I suppose.

The Recipe for Gertrude--Part 17

It was such a relief to make Gertrude's hair blond again. I was happily able to dress Curtis's wound, which was something I'd been looking to do.
I fell way behind on this one, so I had to take the draft to Tokyo on the bullet train myself.

The Recipe for Gertrude--Part 18

The last episode. I drew it without feeling sorry for myself. I thought I'd feel sad when I finished drawing it, but that wasn't the case. I had lots of things left to do, including making the bound version. Maybe the depression is going to sink in after this.

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